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Niagara News

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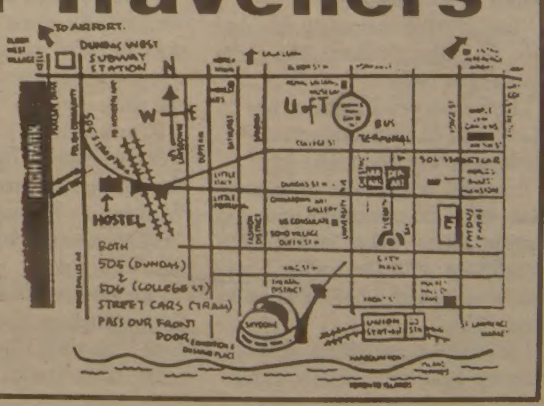


NIAGARA NEWS

Bursary award created for college students

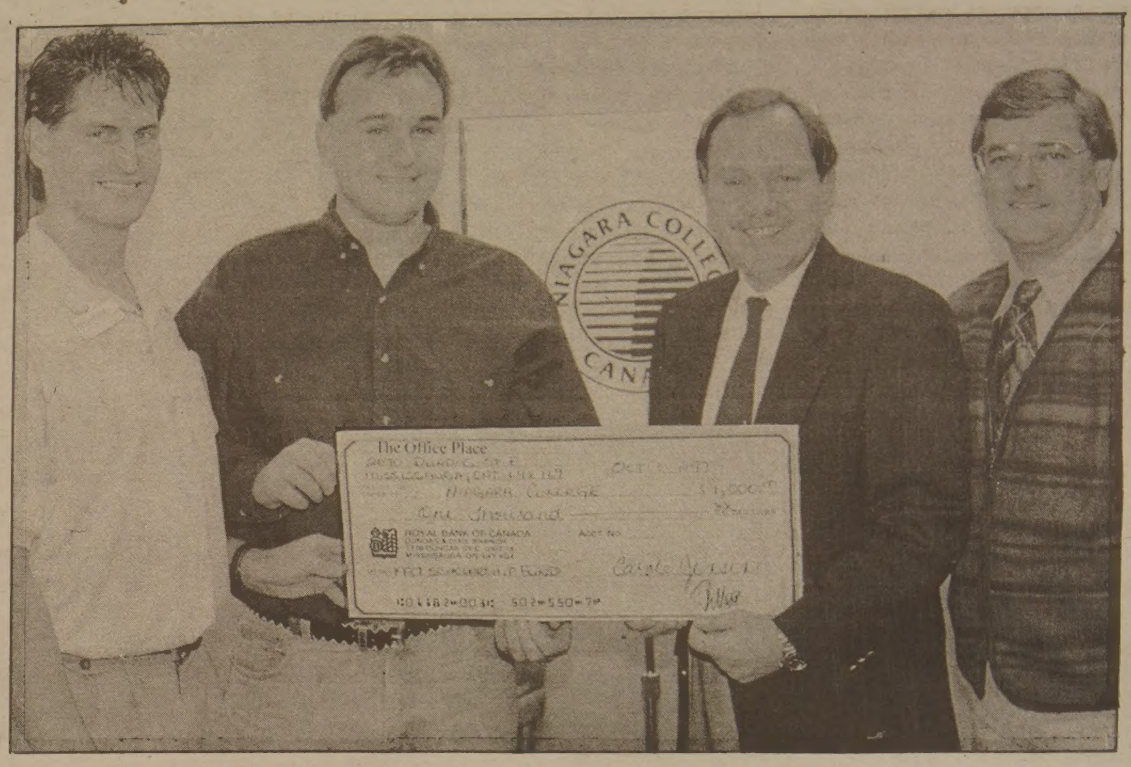
By DAVE CONROY
Staff Writer

The Office Place store on YMCA Drive in St. Catharines has made a donation to create a bursary award for a Niagara College student.

During the "back to school" period in the late summer and fall of 1997, Office Place encouraged students visiting their new location at the Fairview complex to submit the name of their school for a draw.

Niagara College was chosen as the recipient of the award of $1,000.

Under the provincial government's "Double Your Dollars" initiative, the province matches all monies raised for student bursaries. The $1,000 will be matched to fund an annual bursary.



From left, The Office Place store manager Chris McEachern, with Mechanical Engineering Technology student Rick Colangelo, gives a cheque for $1,000 to Niagara College to President Dan Patterson and Mechanical Engineering Co-ordinator Alan Munro. **Photo by Dave Conroy**

Niagara College has allotted a portion of its own undesignated bursary funds (raised through special events like the Nov. 6 Great Escapes Food and Wine Gala) to the seed donation. In this way, the fund will start with $3,000, which will create an annual bursary of about $250 for a needy student with good academic standing.

Christopher Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, said the bursary could last for a long time.

"It should last forever, that's the idea," he said. "The funds will be invested and every year proceeds will go to a bursary. With any luck, every year some of the proceeds will invest back into the principle."

The Niagara College student who put his college's name in the ballot box is Rick Colangelo, of Port Colborne, a first-year student in the college's Mechanical Engineering and Technology program.

"I think it's great that a first-year mechanical engineering student will receive a bursary . . . It's an excellent program. The teachers are very good and the money could really help in the cost of books and accessories," said Colangelo.

He said he was more than happy to help out a student. "I put a ballot in because I think Niagara College is a good school."

Colangelo, along with Alan Munro, co-ordinator of the Mechanical Engineering Technology program, met Niagara College President Dan Patterson in his office on Dec. 2. They and The Office Place store manager Chris McEachern shook hands and thanked the participants.

"The Double Your Dollars program is so very important to our students," said Patterson. "Many find themselves in financial need and The Office Place donation will be able to make a real difference in building the life and career of a deserving Niagara College student."

McEachern said Niagara College makes an excellent recipient because of the Double Your Dollars program.

"We are delighted to assist a Niagara College student in this way," said McEachern. "The added bonus of The Double Your Dollars program is the icing on the cake. The Office Place really likes to play a role in the community and this is a perfect way to show that commitment."

Special Needs office keeps mandate, changes name

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

It's a sign of the times.

Recently Niagara College's Special Needs Office underwent a change. The office's name has been changed to the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

Gille Prescott, a co-ordinator for the Welland campus centre, said it's something he had been considering for a number of years.

"The words special needs, to me, had a (negative) connotation," said Prescott. "I wasn't quite sure how the name fit with our service."

Unlike the name, the service hasn't changed.

"We have been servicing students for 10 years," said Prescott. "Our service and our mandate doesn't change."

The main reason for the change, said Prescott, was "to keep in line with provincial issues."

The provincial committee also changed its name from Special Needs to the College Committee on Disability Issues after much feedback.

A number of people were unhappy with the name.

"They said they were not special, they were like everyone else," said Prescott. "And they didn't have a need, they had a right to proper accommodations."

Prescott said he thinks the new name shows more respect to people with disabilities.

He hopes the name change will generate questions giving the centre the opportunity to educate more people about disabilities.

"A disability can be a visual impairment, hearing impairment, or a learning disability," said Prescott. "Also, people with social or emotional issues."

"Disabilities entails more than the first perception of people," said Prescott. "It goes beyond someone in a wheelchair."

Since the change, notices and advertisements have been sent to different groups and the centre's letterheads and brochures will be gradually revised.

Zimmerman elected first female chair

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College's graduates just keep on making history.

Debbie Zimmerman, 43, became the Niagara Region's first woman chair last week after enduring six rounds of secret voting.

The Grimsby resident graduated from the college's Journalism-Print program in 1975.

The victory will allow her to resume her "continuous service" to the community, she said.

"I would really like to accomplish some co-operation with the municipalities. There should be a partnership with the region," she said, when asked about her goals as chair.

The veteran politician said she "was up against excellent candidates. Every one of them could have done a good job."

Zimmerman, a communications consultant, has been active in politics since she successfully ran in 1978. She has won every municipal election she has participated in.

"The political science aspect of the first year of the (college) course was helpful in giving a broad overview of politics in general," she said.

Zimmerman worked for the weekly Grimsby Independent after she graduated from the college. Working as a journalist gave her "a chance to see what politics was like," she said.

She defeated Peter Partington, a St. Catharines councillor, in the sixth vote by a 16-12 margin.

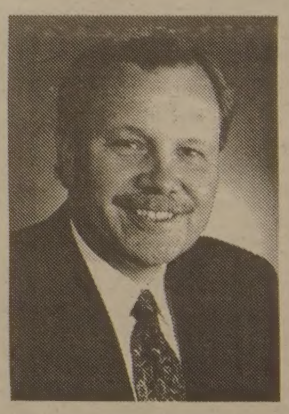
She is the fourth person to chair regional council in the region's 27 years. Brian Merrett stepped down from the job after serving as chair for two terms. Zimmerman posted the most votes in each round of voting.

With her new title comes a $71,000-a-year salary, a car and a corner office at the region's headquarters on St. David's Road in Thorold.

Photo from front page

Luke Stevens, 2, of St. Catharines, tells Santa Claus at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines on Nov. 16 what he wants for Christmas this year.

Photo by Michelle Adey



Dan Patterson
President

Season's Greetings

This time of year is traditionally one of special reflection. As we look back on 1997, it was a year of great challenges and great achievements.

I hope that as you prepare to embark on the unwritten pages of a new year, a new term, or a whole new phase of your career, you will reflect, as I do, on your time here at Niagara College as being truly special in so many ways.

I send my very best wishes to all our students, faculty and staff for a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to a great start to 1998!

NIAGARA NEWS
-N2-

Tourism management program to begin

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

Niagara College's 10 newest students will have some work to do over the Christmas holidays.

On Jan. 5, the first of seven five-day courses in the new Tourism Management Professional Certificate program will begin and the students have already been sent packages containing advanced reading assignments.

The Tourism Environment:2000 and Beyond is an overview of management concepts and principles relevant to the hospitality and tourism industries.

Niagara College's Director of New Product Development Marti Jurmain described the program as "industry driven," with each course taught, for the most part, by guest experts in the fields of hotel management, travel, tourism and sales.

Since the entire program is the first-ever joint effort between Niagara College and Brock University, the first two days of the class are being held in the senate chambers at Brock while the last three days take place at the Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism.

This unique educational partnership extends beyond simple classroom location. Students enrolled in the program are officially registered at both institutions and credit for all courses in the program is transferable to a college diploma or a university degree.

Despite the revolutionary nature of the program, the initial enrolment numbers are lower than expected.

"We were hoping for about 15," said Jurmain.

However, Jurmain was optimistic about the future of the program, pointing out that several students had already signed up for some of the other courses.

"Four of the students in the class have signed up and paid for the entire program," said Jurmain.

At a cost of $750 a course, completing the entire certificate program would cost about $4,500.

Program installed

By MARK TEMPLE
Staff Writer

With a December deadline looming, staff from Niagara College's Information Services (IS) completed a monumental task ahead of schedule.

On Nov. 24, the college's outdated database was replaced with the new Oracle program. The new student information system was designed for performance improvements, although "students will not actually see a lot of the changes to make it easier," said Laura Ford, IS database administrator.

Beginning in October 1996, an IS team attended a series of instructional seminars to educate and prepare them for the enormous conversion task.

Ford said since last March the conversion process has required two full-time and five part-time programmers to change and test the new program on a "line-by-line basis."

"The effort of the staff has been phenomenal," said a proud Ford.

The conversion's necessity was hastened by the vendor's lack of technical support for the old database.

The transmutation was required because of a program glitch in which the old computer program read the year 2000 as 00. The glitch could have caused irreparable confusion within the college's technological infrastructure. The new Oracle database will remedy this problem, along with others.

Another improvement IS has initiated is the extension of time its Students Who Advance Technology (SWAT) team is available for consultation in the computer lab (room S109).

The SWAT members are available from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday (5:30 p.m. on Fridays).

SWAT, a 15-member team made up of student programmer analysts and technicians, began its mandate in September with the intention of providing technical assistance for students and staff at the college. The team's success prompted IS to extend the hours.

Legend of Christmas trees

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

The history of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany, in the first part of the 700s.

The earliest story relates back to how a British monk and a missionary were preaching a sermon to a tribe of Germanic Druids outside the town of Geismar. Legend has it the missionary, in an attempt to win converts, suggested the oak tree, which had fallen while he was preaching, be called "The tree of the Christ Child."

By the 16th century, fir trees, indoors and out, were decorated to commemorate Christmas in Germany. Decorations were hung on a tree and were "roses cut of many-colored paper, apples, wafers, gilt and sugar."

Some believe that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, added lighted candles to a tree. Walking home one winter evening after his sermon, he admired the brilliance of stars amidst the evergreens. To recapture this scene, he wired branches of the tree in his family room with lighted candles.

During the 1700s, a "Christ tree" was an established tradition. At this time, it was not just a German tradition but one that had spread to other parts of Western Europe.

It is not surprising that, similar to other Christmas customs, the tree was adopted later in America.

Today, the Christmas tree in many homes is either artificial or real. The events surrounding choosing, cutting and decorating the tree are usually enjoyed as a peaceful, relaxing practice.

Excerpts and history facts taken from *Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things* Charles Panati, published by Harper & Row.

Choosing a Christmas tree is the easy part, caring for it is the challenge.

Here are some suggestions for choosing a real Christmas tree and enjoying the fresh pine smell for all of December:

- Obtain a tree that is freshly cut.
- Keep the tree away from curtains, radiators and televisions.
- Use a tree stand and immerse the tree trunk in a water container.
- Use only Canadian Standards Association-approved lights and non-flammable decorations.
- Turn off the tree lights when leaving your home.
- Do not run extension cords under carpeting and place them so as not to present a tripping hazard.

Enjoy the holiday and your tree.

Youth opportunities abound

By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

Another tour program is on the way for young people.

The Youth Enterprise Developmental Tour is a program targeted at youth between the ages of 18 to 29.

The three-week program is delivered by the Niagara Innovation Centre and exposes the participants to entrepreneurial operations in the Niagara Region.

Participants will be provided with expert advice about solid and realistic planning. The tour will explore the opportunities for the development of new enterprise in the region.

The first phase of the program includes a one-week orientation at the Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism in Niagara Falls. The week will include activities such as brainstorming exercises to generate enterprising ideas, food demonstrations, guest speakers, group projects, market studies and two full days of touring the region visiting existing enterprises.

During the second phase, participants will complete a personal action plan, or a self-assessment, to identify each participant's interests and strengths, and choose from a range of resources available to them, such as management counselling, specialized advice, ongoing education and general information about starting their own business.

The Royal Bank and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) offer their services to help participants with solid business ideas during the third week of the program.

Dennis Dunn, of St. Catharines, is manager of Management Services at BDC. He said his company allows term financing of up to $25,000, but "we don't just provide money."

He said his company offers about 50 hours of counselling. There is a success rate of about four to one, he said, adding, "We don't insist on security."

The BDC offers management support to improve the business performance.

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, said, "Our entrepreneurial programs and our links with industry position us well to take advantage of the initiative.

"I think the Youth Enterprise program is another example of Niagara College capitalizing on bringing opportunities to Niagara students."

Barbara Okanik, 38, of Fonthill, is the manager of the Innovation Centre at the college.

She said the Youth Enterprise program is "an opportunity for people to really look at self-employment.

"People get a chance to get a sense of what their (business) is all about."

Okanik said there is "so much opportunity for self-employment in the future."

She said there will be "tremendous advantages" for contingency workers, people who work under contracts and work for many different areas in the future.

Happy Holidays
from Bonnie Rose,
Vice President of Academics
&
Pat Clay,
Administrative Assistant
We look forward
to seeing you next term
after a nice break!

Christmas lover's dream come true

It's a wonderland of lights, ornaments, angels, Santas and winter scenes as shoppers gaze through the decorated windows of The Just Christmas store in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo by Dave Barnhardt

By DAVE BARNHARDT
Staff Writer

Just Christmas, and nothing but.

The Just Christmas store at 36 Queen St., in Niagara-on-the-Lake, lives up to its name.

If it has something to do with Christmas and you can't find it here, you won't find it anywhere.

The store, in operation for 13 years, features a seemingly endless variety of Christmas-related ornaments, gifts and decorations and is open every day, year-round — except Christmas day.

Just Christmas is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

Kay Woodfine, owner of the store, says Just Christmas is a "fun store." She says buying a gift that is sure to make someone happy is different.

"It's not like buying jeans."

Woodfine says, so far, "It's been a very good holiday season (this year), no doubt about it."

As you might have guessed, November and December are the busiest months for Woodfine.

She says the week of snow about a month ago and the warm weather that followed has caused the popularity of Just Christmas to jump, especially among tourists.

"There's been a steady increase over last year. The taste of snow piqued peoples' interest in the season."

Each Saturday and Sunday until Christmas, Santa — a man dressed up like the jolly guy whose name is actually Chris — will greet you upon entering the store.

"He's a pretty cool Santa," she says.

For shoppers at the store, Woodfine says there are "lots of specials for busy Christmas shoppers."

She says current big sellers are name balls and icicle lights. The name balls are ball-shaped ornaments with a person's name written on it, and the lights hang like icicles and are intended to be hung from an eavestrough.

When the smoke clears from the Christmas rush, Woodfine says Just Christmas will host a Boxing Sale, which kicks off Boxing Day and continues until the middle of January.

Santa puts his feet up

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

If little ones have ever wondered what good ol' St. Nick does when he's finished with toys and reindeer, then *Santa's Time Off* is the perfect gift for them.

It's a book of poems written by Santa himself as told to the author Bill Maynard.

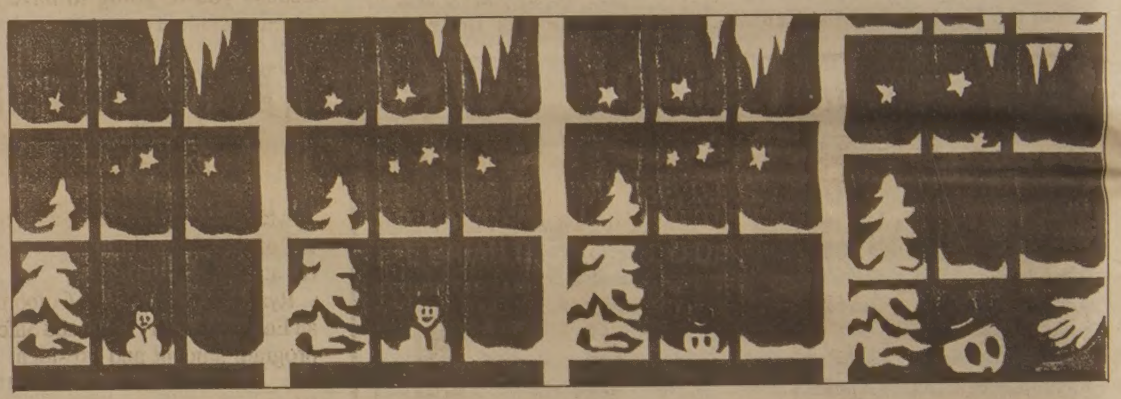
Who would have thought the Big Guy and his elves liked to fish, golf, and play in the sand?

The lively poetry is wonderfully written. Tom Browning's enchanting paintings are the perfect complement.

This book will keep Santa alive in the hearts of children all year long.

This hardcover book, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, sells for $21.50 (CDN).

College sends out holiday cheer



Artwork by Scott Chrysler, second-year Visual and Creative Arts — Design program student.

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

Niagara College has a new Christmas card to distribute this season.

The card was designed by Scott Chrysler, a second-year student in the Visual and Creative Arts — Design program at the Welland campus.

Dan Patterson, college president, chose the card from many designed by the Visual and Creative Arts — Design students.

Director of Communications and Planning Lyn Russo said, "We got submissions from the class and this one was chosen by the president."

Russo said the printing of the card was "delayed because of the postal strike."

The card, now at the printers, is expected to be distributed at the college for the Christmas season.

Valerie Stacey, the program's co-ordinator, said, "It is a seasonal card."

The card features a design showing a snowman sneaking up to a window and being greeted by a welcoming hand.

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As winter's snows swirl past the window,
may the magic of words
– both past and new –
fill your imagination with all of the possibilities
within your grasp.
Information is knowledge.
SEASON'S GREETINGS
from the resourceful staff of the
Learning Resource Centres

The faculty and staff of the
Business & Entrepreneurship Division
would like to extend
a sincere holiday greeting to all of
Niagara College's students, and their colleagues.
Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday and we look
forward to seeing you all
in the new year.
SEASON'S GREETINGS

Season's Greetings
from the management
and staff of
Versa Services

Holiday Greetings
from your friends in the
Access and Student Success
Division

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SAC changes face heated debate

President's role will be changed in new year

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

The restructuring of next year's Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) was a major debate at the SAC council meeting held Dec. 9.

Welland campus SAC President Don Woodruff, 22, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, presented his proposal for a major restructuring of SAC council, involving the Welland campus, Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls and the Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines.

Council representatives from the other two campuses were invited to attend the Dec. 9 meeting because a final decision would affect all students.

Woodruff made his presentation before SAC members from the Welland campus, two councillors from the Maid of the Mist Centre and the Senate president from the Wellandvale campus.

According to the SAC constitution, the other campuses don't have a vote, but representatives from those campuses can voice their opinions.

"Three councils came together with individual goals and they expressed different views on SAC's future," said Woodruff.

"Our council (Welland) has come to a decision about SAC's future, but the satellite campuses are not approving the plan because of a misunderstanding of the structure."

However, Ryan Cook, Senate president from the Wellandvale campus, had a different view.

"To vote on something as severe and extraordinary as restructuring shouldn't be made by only two representatives from the Maid of the Mist Centre and one from Wellandvale campus, but instead there should be an equal amount of representatives from each campus," Cook said.

"This should be a month (long) process and we should be able to give our opinions instead of Welland (council) being able to vote on the plan without our opinions. That's not right."

Council voted to table the restructuring plan until after the Christmas holidays. However, the Welland SAC representatives asked those from the other campuses to write reports for the next meeting on how they would like to see SAC restructured.

Under the proposed plan, one SAC president would oversee all college campuses. That proposal led to a second major debate during Tuesday's session.

"I don't think one person should look over all campuses," said Chris Lewick, 21, social convener from the Maid of Mist Centre.

"Students want to feel one-on-one with their president, but if this passes and a president is elected who attends the Welland campus, how many people will know who the president is in my campus?"

"It is obsolete to have one president looking over everyone," said Cook. "It is wrong structure-wise because you're going to have a biased president no matter what campus that person is from."

Under the restructuring plan, the president's position would be the highest paid and he or she would serve as a liaison person representing all three college campuses.

The president would have to be available to contact every campus on a regular basis. He or she must be available to answer any questions or problems the other councils may have and report those problems to a meeting of the council's Board of Directors.

One important responsibility for this new president would be to communicate among the different campuses, said Woodruff.

"I never met Don (Woodruff) until today and we're four months into the school year," said Cook.

Woodruff said one reason he favors a new structure is because he wants better communication between the president and the different councils.

In the restructuring plan, SAC's six paid positions would increase to 10 paid positions.

The president's post would remain the highest-paid position. The proposed plan would see the establishment of an executive vice-president for each campus in Welland, Niagara Falls and the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, set to open next September.

The proposed plan also calls for the creation of a paid vice-president of events and a vice-president of school affairs.

"The money to pay for the new positions will come from the SAC budget and it will not increase the student SAC fees," said Woodruff.

"They haven't looked at this plan globally or realistically and their eyes are closed on how distant the campuses really are and we can't look at this matter in 15 minutes," said Cook. "The meeting was like watching something you have no control over."

"We can give them (other campus representatives) a voice, but when it comes down to the final decision the Welland campus council has the vote. This is what we are trying to change so that all campuses have a vote on decisions like this one," said Woodruff.

Winner shines

Anoop Chugh (left), SAC executive vice-president, hands Valerie Lane, 33, of Welland, the remote that goes to a television and VCR she won from the Shinerama raffle held in November. Photo by Mark Riehl

NFL bus trip available for Sunday

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

After having one successful trip to Buffalo, N.Y., plans have been set for another trip.

Ryan Cook, 21, of Port Colborne, an Environmental Health and Safety program student and president of the student senate at the Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines, has helped organize two sport excursions.

One trip was to see a Buffalo Sabres' hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers at Marine Midland Arena on Nov. 12.

"We had a great turnout selling all of the tickets and we had ice-level seats," said Cook. "We had a great time and we received a lot of good feedback."

The tickets for the trip cost $35 Canadian including the cost of the bus, and all 32 tickets were sold.

"We decided to run another trip because of the feedback we received from the students and it means we're doing something right," said Cook. "I am very pleased with everyone on my council this year. We have done the best job we can with the little we have."

The senate will be sending students to Buffalo on Sunday, Dec. 14 for a National Football League game at 12:30 p.m. between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars. There are 26 tickets available for the trip. The tickets cost $35 Canadian, which includes the price of the tickets and bus. Ticket holders can board the bus at the Wellandvale campus at 9:30 a.m.

"It should be a break for some students because of exams and it should be a great event to end off the year," said Cook. For ticket information and/or purchase call 905-684-3167.

SAC has extra food for students in need

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

It's a final drive for food.

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council's (SAC) food drive is winding down.

Tiffany Fox, 22, SAC's vice-president of external affairs, is organizing the event.

"We (SAC) pushed the fact to students to bring in food and drop it off in the boxes, but we didn't push the fact enough that students who need food can get food," said Fox, of Toronto, a second-year Broadcasting Radio, Television and Film program student.

"It's going OK but we haven't received as much food as we had hoped, and we have also had problems with people stealing food from the boxes, such as chips," said Fox.

"I was very upset when I found out that people were stealing food, but I appreciate the ones who brought in food."

The food drive began on Nov. 12. Niagara students and faculty were asked to donate non-perishable food items to support needy students.

Any student in need can get food items at the SAC office in After Hours. Food left over will be donated to the Welland Food Bank.

INTERNATIONAL

Indonesian principals given tour in Vineland

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Food and history are bonuses when visiting the Plain and Fancy.

The Indonesian principals visiting Niagara College and studying Hospitality and Tourism were treated to lunch and a tour of the Plain and Fancy Restaurant in Vineland, Ont., on Dec. 4.

Restaurant owner Greg Crealock gave the principals an extensive tour and explanation of how the restaurant is run, its policies and his views on internationalizing the restaurant business.

Crealock referred to running the restaurant as "my longest career, (but) I thought I had a long career to begin with."

The facility has separate rooms decorated in various styles including traditional Canadian and a patio with outdoor furniture. The view from the restaurant is of Lake Ontario where, on a clear day, you can see Toronto on the horizon.

Crealock asked the group how they had been enjoying their stay in Canada. They responded with an enthusiastic "great."

"I found Indonesia to be very gracious and it has excellent hosts," said Crealock.

Crealock advised his visitors to not lose sight of people's needs when involved in tourism. He said a host should inquire why visitors are where they are, what it is they want to know about you and what you should want to know about them.

He said the history behind his restaurant is related to the Heritage Mennonites dating back 162 years. He told the group the restaurant was on the site of a former homestead, implement shed and animal holding area.

"We try to duplicate the (historical) style and family and talk to the visitors about the history," said Crealock. "We also try to serve food from the area to the tourists."

While most of the discussion consisted of Crealock speaking to the group about Canadian tourism, he took the time to ask about the Indonesian industry.

"It is a very vital and interesting field for us here in Canada," said Crealock.

He said one aspect making the Plain and Fancy a unique restaurant is its attention to detail. The restaurant has a homey atmosphere that makes guests feel they are at home, while offering them a Canadian-style meal.

"Here we have staff who speak three or four different languages," said Crealock.

When the staff can communicate with patrons and make them feel at home while they're visiting, Crealock said, this will make their visit more enjoyable.

Learning culture through celebrating Christmas

By MINAKO YAMAGUCHI
Staff Writer

Decorate your tree with your wishes!

Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program students made Christmas ornaments at the Welland campus for the party on Dec. 12 at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

The students cut Christmas cookies and dried them on Nov. 28.

They combined cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, and added applesauce and glue.

The aroma of cinnamon filled the air in one classroom in the Simcoe Building.

Students cut the dough with cookie cutters shaped as fir trees, Santa Clauses, bells and stars.

On Dec. 5, the students painted over 100 cookies to get ready for the party.

This will be the first time celebrating Christmas in Canada for many of these students, some of whom don't consider Christmas to be as important as people do in Canada.

"This is my first time making Christmas ornaments," says Yuka Aoyama, 22, of Japan. "This is fun and interesting."

"It was interesting to cut cookies because I like making something especially for Christmas," says Hea Hee Yeom, 19, of Korea.

"Christmas is to thank God," says Yeom, a Christian, "and we can enjoy Christmas because this is the time people meet with their family."

Yeom won't be back home at Christmas but she says she's looking forward to travelling to London, Ont., with her host family.

"If I have a chance, I'd like to make ornaments when I go back home," says Aoyama. "I will enjoy this Christmas here as the most important event in Canada."

English as a Second Language students made over 100 Christmas ornaments on Dec. 5. Sang Gyun Kim, 26, of Korea, is trying to paint one carefully.

Photo by Minako Yamaguchi

How do international students celebrate Christmas at home? What are they going to do this Christmas?

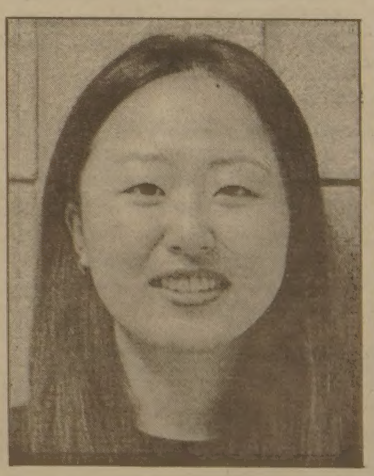
By MINAKO YAMAGUCHI
Staff Writer

"Our New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are more important than Christmas in my country," says **Chin Yi Lin, 20, of Taiwan,** adding it's a national holiday for the Taiwanese Constitution Day on Dec. 25.

"I'm going to Casino Niagara with my host family on Dec. 25. This will be my first Christmas in Canada."

"We don't have Christmas on Dec. 25. There are two Islamic celebrations like Christmas in January and April in my country," says **Bader Al-Subaie, 19, of Saudi Arabia,** adding, for the Jan. 31 celebration, no one eats all day. The next day, everyone celebrates with breakfast.

"This will be first time to stay for Christmas in Canada, so I hope I will get to know what people do for Christmas here."



"We have Christmas as one of our national holidays, but it's not as important as New Year's Eve in Korea," says **Ja Young Koh, 21, of Korea,** adding on New Year's Day of the lunar calendar, people have a ceremony for their ancestors and play some games with family members.

"Before leaving in January, I would like to see how Christmas and New Year's Day are in Canada."

"My country's Christmas is very similar to the North American one. We have turkey with family and relatives," says **José Paredes, 25, of Mexico.**

"Guadalupe Day on Dec. 12 is more important for Christians. Christianity is the main religion in my country."

"I am going back home for this vacation to spend the time with my family. This is what Cristmas is for."

"Christmas is not a really religious event in Japan," says **Tomo Miura, 22, of Japan,** "but it is common that parents put presents beside the pillows of their children sleeping in bed on Christmas Eve and the next morning children find their presents."

"I will probably go to Vancouver or stay in Welland for my first Christmas in Canada."

These are all English as a Second Language program students.

niagnews@iaw.com

Santa Claus goes high-tech

By DAN DAKIN and MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writers

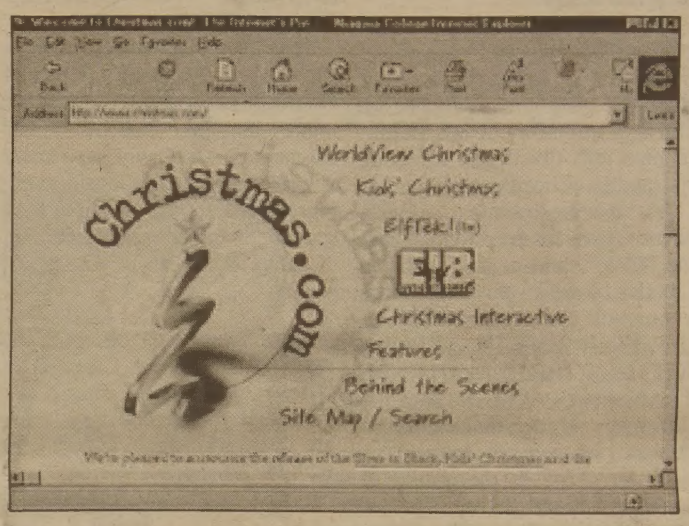
Who says Santa Claus isn't high-tech?

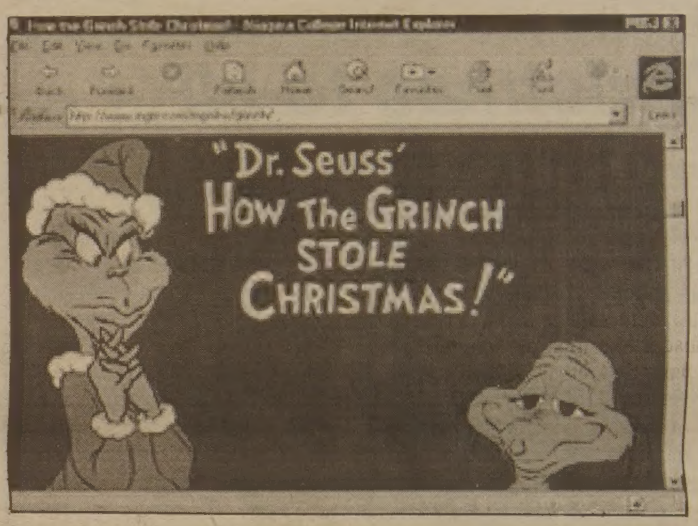
A simple Internet search in Yahoo for the words "Santa Claus" brings up hundreds of Web sites.

While most focus on the usual happy-holidays topics, a few actually focus on the darker side of the season. A couple of examples of this are *The X-mas Files site and The Anti-Claus site. Both of these are meant to be humorous and fun.*

In addition to visiting sites, you can send electronic Christmas cards this year. You can pick the style and message, and even add in some multi-media greetings using audio and video files. Many Web pages offer this for free.

Below are some examples of holiday Web sites and where they can be accessed.





Here come the elves in black! They are the first, last and only organization dedicated to preserving the Spirit of Christmas. You look and ask, what the hell is he talking about?

It's almost Christmas and www.christmas.com is up and running.

This site is excellent, with a Christmas theme that doesn't try to sell anything. The Elves In Black (EIB), is just one page on the site. A spoof on the hit movie Men in Black, the elves in black tell of the lives of two of Santa's secret service men.

Although the site is somewhat slow, what can you expect from a site that is being surfed to from all over the world? The best time to surf to it, as I've found, is in the morning before 10:30. There is an excellent worldview of Christmas, but unfortunately they did not include the most important country for Christmas, Canada. There is an interactive section, a kid's section and even a search for the site.

Even Mr. Grinch has his own Web page.

While its main purpose may be to advertise the movie, the site at www.mgm.com/mgmhv/grinch/ is a great resource for anyone interested in Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas.*

There are only two main pages on the site. One includes a quick description of the movie and the second is where movie and audio clips can be downloaded.

Unfortunately, the main purpose of the site is to advertise the video. There is an area that allows people to order the movie over the Internet using a major credit card.

If you like the Grinch then you should enjoy this site.

It is fairly fast because of the limited graphics on the pages. However, the few graphics on the site are colorful, impressive and would definately be worth a look.

An equally impressive Santa-site is www.claus.com.

This site has an area that you can check whether you made his naughty or nice list, an elf school, a holiday karaoke page, a Mrs. Claus recipe page, a post office to send letters to Santa, and even a Santa Tracker page.

The Tracker allows you to check how close to your house Santa is on Christmas Eve.

If you do a search for "Santa tracker" in Yahoo, you will find numerous places to actually download these tracking programs.

Finally, we'll be visiting the North Pole at www.northpole.com. The creators of this site have taken a long time to draw the pictures here. They are excellent cartoons.

You can get recipes and join the elf clubhouse. This site could be one of the better Christmas sites because it contains only a few advertisements or links to other pages. There is, however, a link to www.weather.com for the weather right now at the North Pole (for those of you who care if Rudolph's nose is red because it's cold out). This site is great to check out.

Computer services link 3 charities

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

Soup kitchens have entered the computer age.

Two Niagara College students in the Computer-Programming Analyst program have assisted three community charities in coordinating their services.

Kirk Kipfer, 21, and Jeremy Walsh, 22, have lent some of their computer skills to the Salvation Army, the Open Arms Mission and the Community Resources Action Centre.

"We created a client list for the food banks and soup kitchens and linked them up," so that they would know how often they were being used, and to see if some people were using food banks more often than they should, Kipfer said.

Other applications for the technology included creating a list of employees and regulating donations. Using a program called Access 2, Kipfer and Walsh said they hope to complete those services by Dec. 17, or mid-January at the latest.

'I've learned a lot from this project' —Kirk Kipfer

"This could be an ongoing thing, with students in next year's class continuing to improve and add on to the system we set up," Kipfer said.

The professional, confident-sounding students added they had received a lot of support from their teachers in the program, Sandra Dzacovic, Debbie Gilmore and Dino Cappellazzo.

Dzacovic set up the initial contact between the students and representatives of the charity. Gilmore and Cappellazzo found computer hardware the college could donate to the charities for the project, including "486 motherboards, modems and hard drives," Kipfer said.

The third-year students, who are graduating this year, started the project in September, as an assignment for their course.

Kipfer said he and Walsh spend eight or nine hours a week on the project.

"I've learned a lot from this project that will be applicable to my work after I'm finished the course," he said, with a smile.

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EDITORIAL

Niagara News

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-8112.

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Merry Christmas to all

The postal strike is over and all letters are behind schedule.

Even unstamped letters have been delivered because postal workers don't have time to check each letter and parcel for correct postage.

Many people are probably happy the strike is finished and wonder why the strike had to happen, especially at the Christmas season.

However, can the public be relieved that unhappy postal workers are back at their jobs?

There was not a good resolution reached for either the government or the workers.

This is what the federal government must deal with, and all of us must keep our eyes on what decision the government will make next because it will affect our lives.

For those of you who think your letters won't be delivered on time to whomever you have sent them to, let's hope your family and friends will have a happy time on Christmas Day.

For people who are going back home, have a safe trip and good time with your family and old friends.

For everyone, have a wonderful Christmas holiday and we will see you next year at Niagara College.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Minako Yamaguchi

Remember others this Christmas

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is, once again, upon us.

While we're out buying our presents, purchasing the perfect turkey and charging decorations for our shining tree, the world goes on around us.

The homeless in our community have never needed our help more than now, during this holiday season.

They won't know the warm feeling being with family brings during these next few weeks. All they will know is how the their skin loses its feeling as the bitter winter cold sets in around them. They won't be opening mile-high stacks of gifts Dec. 25. They'll be opening garbage can lids to find a half-eaten scrap of food.

While on your shopping errands, select that perfect turkey, but also pick up a non-perishable or two. There are many soup kitchens and food banks available for the nomeless, but it's up to the community to help fill them to the brim.

The epidemic of homelessness continues to grow.

Jennifer Cote

Letters to the Editor policy

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Letters to Editor

Liberals at fault

Dear Editor:

I seldom see a copy of your newspaper, so I have no idea what political party you support. I want you to know first that I am a senior citizen and have to pay for my prescriptions, which irritates me as it does others. I presume the person who writes the editorial column is intelligent and well read.

I am surprised at the editorial in your Dec. 5 issue headed "Mike, drop that scalpel."

Everyone, including you it seems, blames the provincial Conservative party, that is, Mike Harris. "For over the past two years, Mike Harris's government has implemented cuts drastically affecting the quality of health care."

It is amazing to me that everyone blames Harris for the cutbacks! I put the blame where it lies, with the Liberals. Nowhere have I read from a columnist that it is the LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IN OTTAWA WHO CUT THE HEALTH CARE TRANSFER PAYMENTS to the provinces. Under these circumstances, I ask everyone, from where, or from whom, is the money to come if it is not there? It has to come from us and we — the citizens of Ontario — have to pay!

I ask you sir, please put the blame for health care, where it belongs — in Ottawa, not Mike Harris.

The Liberals have said they have cut their deficit. Easy when you have taken it from another source? The fact is they have taken money away from every province to do so — in spite of the fact that in the election before the last one, they promised that health care would not suffer! How quickly the electorate forget — AND THEY GET RE-ELECTED!

The other point I want to make is the "give it away" Liberal Government continues to spend the money they take from us — our tax money — foolishly, in so many ways it would take considerably more space to tell you how they spend it, than you could publish in the editorial column, or your newspaper.

Let's hear from you about the ways in which the Liberals in Ottawa "foolishly" spend our money. If you do not know, there are those who do. Why not start *with the helicopters scandal!*

Yours truly,
Derek A. Tidd
Niagara Falls, Ont.

Patriotism lacking in Canadian society

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed Dan Dakin's article on Canadian patriotism in the Nov. 21 edition of the Niagara News.

I totally agree that patriotism is something that is lacking in Canadian society.

This point is proven in the sports section of the exact same paper. I was very disappointed when I saw that the paper's sports writers were more concerned with the National Football League (NFL) weekly picks and NFL realignment that they were with the previous week's Grey Cup game.

I will concede that the talent level of the Canadian Football League (CFL) is not up to par with that of the NFL, but the Canadian game, with its unique set of rules, is far more wide open, exciting and entertaining than the NFL.

Because of the three downs in the CFL, as opposed to four, the Canadian game puts more emphasis on the pass and is less likely to put fans to sleep during a blow-out than the run-oriented NFL.

This year's Grey Cup playoffs produced the most exciting football I've seen this decade.

Even though the Toronto Argonauts blew away the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Grey Cup, the previous week's division finals were very entertaining and unmatched by any game in the NFL that day.

Both CFL games were not decided until the final minute (Toronto's Doug Flutie hit Michael Clemons with a 57-yard touchdown pass to beat Montreal; Saskatchewan survived a last-second onside kick attempt and just edged Edmonton). In the NFL, 10 games out of 15 were decided by more than 10 points.

The CFL is dominated by exciting finishes whereas the NFL sees stadiums begin to empty before the two-minute warning.

Although I will enjoy the remainder of the NFL season, I am already counting down the days until the 1998 CFL season.

Lee Whitehead
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FROM THE HIP

Christmas Day just won't be the same

By JENN WALKER
Staff Writer

Last year my parents split up. I may never get over the fact we'll never have a Christmas like it used to be — when we were happy.

Instead of waking up Christmas morning to my mom, my dad and my little brother, I woke up to my mom, her boyfriend and my little brother.

I had long before accepted the situation, but the holidays brought out an emotional side of me I had repressed. That morning, while opening gifts, I realized I really did miss my dad.

My dad and I have never really gotten along and I thought it wouldn't be that hard to not have him around. I wondered what he was doing at the same moment and became very sad. My dad was living with his girlfriend and her five cats. The thought depressed me.

Later in the day, my mom drove my brother and me over to my dad's apartment. The visit was pleasant, yet uncomfortable. It was the first time I had met his girlfriend.

She was so different from my mom and I doubted that my dad was truly happy. It was the first time I felt sorry for him.

Later that afternoon my dad drove us to my maternal grandparents. We pulled into the driveway and he stepped out of the car and pulled me in and gave me a hug. I found myself choking back tears and I couldn't understand why. I looked at him as he got in the car. He had tears in his eyes too.

I knocked on my grandparents' door, trying to remain calm and get into the holiday spirit. As soon as I stepped inside, I broke down. I cried and cried again. I don't know if I was feeling sorry for myself, or for my dad, but I knew deep down inside I missed him very much.

At dinner, I could barely eat. I didn't know where my dad was going to be eating his Christmas dinner.

I bet he wanted to be with us too. This year I'm sure I will miss him again, but I hope I can accept it just a little more so that I don't ruin my Christmas again.

I wish that just for one day of the year my family could be a family again.

Looking forward to going home

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

A different city, different temperatures and a long way from home.

Some people may be able to relate to this, especially international students at Niagara College.

Although I am not from a country across the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans, but I am 500 kilometres away from my hometown making me feel homesick, especially at Christmas.

I am looking forward this Christmas to going home to the Ottawa Region, although I have grown to love the Niagara Region.

Christmas in Carleton Place is unique. The average temperature is -5 Celsius and there has been snow on the ground since the middle of October.

Although I enjoy the warmer temperatures in St. Catharines, I miss the snow on the ground just before Christmas. Snow makes it look more Christmas-like and makes the lights on people's houses sparkle more brightly.

I have debated several times with myself these past weeks about buying an artificial Christmas tree to make my apartment more festive looking. Why bother when I am the only one to look at it? Since I'm going home no one would be looking at it over the holiday.

That's another thing I miss, helping my family put up the tree and decorating it with silly little ornaments my sister and I made in public school.

The closest I've come to acknowledging the Christmas season this year is listening to endless Christmas songs played at work, buying and wrapping the baker's dozen of gifts lying on the floor of my apartment, in search of a home beneath a tinseled tree, and the holiday baking to be done next week.

In less than two weeks I will be home, enjoying all the Christmas candies mom has set out in the candy dishes, shaking the presents underneath the tree to see if I can guess what is inside and taking long midnight walks through the snow.

I'm a child at heart. And I'm sure I'm not the only one.

Whoopee, Santa

By IAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

I look through my plastic bifocals and adjust my polyester beard so the children don't realize that I'm not the real thing.

As an overworked, tired mother places her extremely excited son on my lap I realize he has had a little too much soda to drink. This child has now done something that would embarrass any adult in this situation.

After this child tells me he has been a good boy over the past year, he goes on to say he was disappointed in the gift he received last year. I reassure him I will try to get it right this year and send him on his way.

When the elf takes his picture, she snaps the photograph at just the right moment, when he is tugging on my beard. It is a perfect Christmas portrait in the eyes of his mother. In the eyes of all the other children, it is a great disappointment.

I tell the children I am just helping the "Big Guy" because he is just too busy at this time of the year. They smile and wait impatiently for a chance to see me.

I let my elf know of his excitement, and she tells the lineup of children I have to go feed my reindeer and will be back in 15 minutes.

I change my red suit and return to my village to greet the children with a merry "Ho Ho."

This jumpy crowd goes into a frenzy. They are all waiting to tell me what they wish to receive on the morning of the 25th.

On the eve of Christmas as I wait for the day to end and the children try to get in their last few wishes, I congratulate my elves on their fine work and wish them a merry Christmas. As I hand out the last of the broken candy canes and get my picture taken with last child, I say to myself, "I'm never doing this again," knowing next year I'll arrive at the mall to do this over again.

I'm a mall Santa. I greet children through December but, in fact, I am just a messenger to Santa Claus.

This year my job was even more important because of the mail strike. All the letters to Santa were late. I was there to help Santa get the letters from children on time.

Big C commercialism, not Christ

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

The elves, a roly-poly St. Nick in a red suit, and the flying arctic reindeer are back again.

This time of year is full of mythologies and magical beings. Santa Claus, Rudolph the reindeer and the mean old Grinch are just a few of the colorful characters that grace our television screens, children's book covers and shopping malls.

Some people might say Christmas is getting away from its original intent, a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, in favor of commercialism and silly stories about some fat guy in a red suit.

The only problem with that reasoning is Christmas used to be a pagan holiday by another name.

It's not really the Big C's b-day. If you are going to celebrate it, you might as well do it on the right date. (Anybody know what it is? Send your best guesses to the editor.)

Also, what's wrong with a little commercialism?

Wasn't that the whole basis of our Western superiority over the Communist hordes (who, by the way, were probably ordered to shoot the Clauses on sight)?

A no-holds barred sense of responsible consumerism is the foundation of our happy little free market system. The Christmas holiday can be no exception.

Christmas calf born on blessed day one year

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

A country Christmas is different but fulfilling.

Christmas, for many, is sleeping in on Christmas morning and rising to have brunch and open gifts.

For me Christmas has always been an extremely busy three-day event. On the day of Christmas Eve everyone in my family helps prepare the Christmas Day hors-d'oeuvres.

Christmas Eve is spent doing chores on the family dairy farm, attending a candlelight church service and visiting neighbors to exchange Christmas gifts and holiday cheer.

After we return home, each of the children is allowed to chose one gift from under the tree to open.

Christmas morning the family rises early to do chores together, to open their stockings and go to church to hear the Christmas story and sing the wonderful Christmas hymns.

After church, mom serves up a light lunch. She doesn't want us too full for the feast to take place on Christmas Day night.

Following the light lunch the rest of the Christmas packages are exchanged. Mom and my older sister prepare the evening feast while the rest of my family tend to the animals. The farm does not stop for the holidays. Animals always need food.

It has also been our experience to have a Christmas calf born on the blessed day one year.

Christmas is a three-day affair because on Boxing Day my family travels to Grandmother's in order to celebrate. We are joined by a house full of aunts, uncles and cousins.

This time of year has always been a happy time for my family.

My best wishes to everyone during this season. May you enjoy it as much as I do each year.

Local YWCA provides Christmas to all

By ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time of year when people of all ages can be around friends and enjoy themselves.

The YWCA provides a place for children and adults to share this holiday regardless of economic status.

The YWCA, a non-profit organization, helps families generally less fortunate than others. During Christmas, donations of food and money are especially welcome.

Margret Heath, of St. Catharines, is the co-ordinator of the Children's Breakfast Club in Niagara Housing, an overseeing agency for subsidized housing in the Niagara Region.

"The breakfast club's purpose is to give children a healthy breakfast and fun atmosphere in which to enjoy it," said Heath.

They receive donations for the club from such groups as the Niagara Regional Police, St. Paul United Church and A&P Foods. Donated items include peanut butter, jam, honey, cereal and bread.

"All children are welcome and for the most part the kids love it," said Heath. "The YWCA would like to see this in all of the housing in the Niagara area."

The agency provides a Christmas party and dinner as well as regular spaghetti dinners. Heath's position is a voluntary one. The YWCA and Niagara Housing are discussing plans to make her post a paid full-time one because of the success of her efforts with the Breakfast Club.

Heath said he believes the YWCA has a unique purpose in the community. She said, "I think it has a duty to provide a good quality of life and healthy living, particularly during Christmas."

The women's residence, part of the YWCA, also has events planned for the holiday season. The YWCA and Ryson Studios held a Christmas benefit concert Dec. 1 at St. Paul's United Church in St. Catharines.

'All children are welcome and for the most part the kids love it.'
—Margret Heath

Sandra Christian, of St. Catharines, is the residence director in St. Catharines. She said, "The concert was extremely successful. We thanked the Zonta Club of St. Catharines for its support of the women's residence."

"They donated $1,000 toward restoration of the windows at the residence," added Christian.

She said she was "very happy to see the children helping out . . . This is what started out the Christmas spirit for me, the giving."

The women's residence provides women with a place to live when they are in crisis.

Christian said, "I am fortunate to be living with the women in the residence . . . I think the biggest responsibility of the YWCA is to restore the dignity to the women and make them strong again."

The child care department has its part during the Christmas celebrations at the YWCA. The children, under the care of teacher Kathy Trussell, are kept busy throughout the holiday season with crafts and cookie baking.

"If you don't keep them (the children) busy they get too anxious before Christmas even gets here," said Christian.

Plans include taking the children to the Mitten Tree at the Welland Canal's Lock 3. "We also have a little Christmas party for the kids on (Dec.) 19th," said Christian.

Wrapping up the season is exactly what the YMCA is offering with a free Christmas gift wrap service at Corbloc in downtown St. Catharines for the next two Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All donations will be accepted.

Aboriginal office shows off at high schools

By BRADEN TANGUAY
Staff Writer

The Aboriginal Education Access Office (AEAO), at Niagara College, participated in this year's Career Information Day to highlight the benefits of AEAO and its programs to high school students.

This year's information day was held Dec. 1 at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, in Ohsweken, southeast of Brantford, Ont.

Wendy Johnson-Martin, manager of AEAO, said the office wants to recruit native students by showing them the benefits of native programs at Niagara.

"We are showcasing what we have to offer here," Martin said.

"Our recruitment is aimed at showing students who we are, where we are, and why we would be a good choice."

Events this year attracted about 25 representatives from colleges and universities in Ontario, and students from three Brantford high schools. Students from Fort Erie and St. Catharines also attended.

"We set up a display that showed students our two new programs we hope to launch next September," Martin said.

"We also let students see what we currently offer."

The new September-launch programs include Native Arts Management and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

"We had a lot of schools interested in our GIS program," Martin said. "We got requests from several representatives for more information about the program."

The GIS program is a partnership between Niagara College and Six Nations GEO Systems. It incorporates an application software program called The Eagle's Cry.

AEAO will submit the proposals for the new programs by Dec. 31.

This year's information day was sponsored by the Grand River Post Secondary Office (GRO). GRO promotes native students who plan to attend post-secondary education.

GRO tries "to help the success of native students by giving them the proper information when applying to post-secondary schools," Martin said. "They act as a sponsor for the students."

Martin said the 1996 information day was held in the spring.

Casino Niagara, variety stores will remain open Christmas

Plan ahead for last-minute shopping needs

By IAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Plan ahead and hope you have everything ready for Christmas Day.

If you need a last-minute Christmas gift, or Christmas wine or beer, you will have time on Christmas Eve. If you are brave enough to fight the other procrastinators for that one special gift you need, you can shop until 6 p.m.

On Christmas Day there will be no stores open within the Niagara Region with the exception of convenience stores, some coffee shops and, of course, Casino Niagara.

Shopping malls, including St. Catharines' Pen Centre, Niagara Falls' Niagara Square and Welland's Seaway Mall, will be closed on Dec. 25. All beer and liquor stores will also be closed.

Don't worry, all malls will be open on Boxing Day, Dec. 26. If you are so inclined, you can rush to the stores to spend your Christmas gift money.

"I think it is ridiculous," says Barbara Miller, of Niagara Falls. "Doesn't anyone get a break over the holidays? What is next? Will the stores be open on Christmas Day next year? . . . . I have had all my shopping done for two months now. It wasn't that hard."

"I don't know what I'll do on Christmas," says Martha Sanders, 63, of Port Colborne. "I need to go to bingo. Maybe I'll go to the casino."

She said she has no family left and she enjoys playing bingo. "It is like my Christmas."

Ah, winter!

Roger Charles, 21, a first-year Business Administration program student from St. Catharines, abandons his winter jacket during Wednesday's winter storm.
Photo by Jeff Schelhas

Season's Greetings

from the International Education Dept. and all the international students

Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año
ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ
새해 복 많이 받으세요.
สวัสดีปีใหม่
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Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
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Prettige Kerst & Gelukkig Nieuwjaar
Joyeux Noël!

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Very Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year!
From the Staff of
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Print Centre
Campus Store

Santa won't do tofu, but Dasher does

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

Sometimes our reporters get the chance to meet someone incredibly famous.

I was one of these lucky people. I was able to take a trip to one of the coldest parts of the world to visit one of the most well-known men of all time.

My journey began when I stepped off the plane and met two very tiny men on a dog sled. They bundled me in in the warmest blankets and covered my eyes with a cloth.

About an hour or so later, we arrived. I was seated in a large brightly colored red room and served milk and cookies by a kind old lady who introduced herself as Mrs. Claus.

I was impressed, for I had just met the first lady of Christmas herself. I sat for a couple of minutes before a large jolly man entered and sat in a chair next to me. The big man himself. This is how our conversation went.

Mark — So, Mr. Claus . . . err . . . Santa . . . err . . . Saint Nick . . . err . . . Kris Kringle . . . err . . . what should I call you?

Santa — You can call me anything, but you always addressed your letters to Santa, so whatever you feel comfortable with.

Mark — OK, Santa, I don't know where to start. There is so much people want to know.

Santa — Calm down, Mark. You've been a good boy this year. I don't mind chatting with you.

Mark — OK. Ummm . . . So, tell us, what makes you do this year after year?

Santa — It's the enjoyment of watching children's faces light up Christmas morning after I've visited.

Mark — I see. So is there anything that annoys you on your trips?

Santa — Well, actually, people who leave me tofu instead of cookies is sort of annoying, although Dasher has taken a liking to it.

Mark — Are there any Christmases you just didn't want to finish?

Santa — It happens almost every year, but by the time I'm three quarters done, I'm feeling pretty jolly. Mrs. Claus really packs a wollop in her egg nog. WHEW!

Mark — Is that why you left me a bag of reindeer food last year?

Santa — Oh, was that you? Actually, you were last on my list. Sorry, it won't happen again (smile).

Mark —What makes the reindeer keep going?

Santa — They know when they get home they get to play their reindeer games, and the elves like to spike their food with chocolate-covered coffee beans, but don't tell them that.

Mark — No problem. So why do the elves do what they do year after year?

Santa — Actually, they have no choice. From the time they are born till they turn 200, the elves live in a tree and make chips. They are then called Keebler Elves. Once they turn 200, they come to me for another 200 years. Then they move on to become lawn ornaments for the rest of their lives.

Mark — OK. Thanks a lot, Santa. This was really enjoyable, but I'd better let you get back to checking your list.

Santa — Good idea. This was fun, Mark. Come back next year and we'll do it again.

Mark — OK. Bye, Santa. Thanks a lot. I hope I will have the opportunity to visit again next year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Greetings!

from the faculty & staff
of the Foundation Studies
and Nursing Studies Divisions

Ontario

Best wishes to the Staff and Students at Niagara College for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Bradley, MPP
2 Secord Dr., Unit 2
St. Catharines, Ontario
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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

CONGRATULATIONS

The citizens of the City of St. Catharines are proud and pleased to convey Holiday Greetings to Niagara College and best wishes for continued success throughout the 1997/1998 season.

I welcome this opportunity to join with them and with my colleagues on Council to salute this edition which not only reflects the achievements of all those associated with Niagara College but also enhances the proud traditions of Canada's Garden City and our good neighbors throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

Timothy H. Rigby
Mayor

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CHRISTMAS Joy

Wishing All Faculty, Staff and Students The Best This Holiday and a Happy New Year

Phyllis Barnatt
Journalism
Print

Images of Christmas

By TRACY JAY
Staff Writer

Tha Candlelight Walk was a good way to start off the Christmas season for the 18 Indonesian principals who are visting the Niagara Region for three more weeks.

Niagara-on-the-Lake hosted its seventh annual Candlelight Walk service on Dec. 5. Although the temperature reached minus five degrees Celcius, with a strong north wind blowing off the lake, the principals braved the bitter weather.

The walk, which was just less than two kilometres, was filled with sights and sounds of the Christmas spirit. Along the way was cider, carols and candles.

James Modouw, one of the Indonesian principals, bundled up, and journeyed the two kilometers. "My family was celebrating Christmas today in Indonesia," he said.

"I wish they had been here with me. It was so wonderful. My family would have made it perfect."

The women in the group went into the open shops to get away from the cold and to buy souvenirs for their return home on Dec. 23. Rismapita Saragih and Titus Samino sat under a heat lamp sipping warm drinks on the patio at the Buttery Pub waiting to be picked up at 8:30 p.m.

When the programmers checked the Prince of Wales Hotel at 8 p.m., the Indonesian principals were standing outside shivering with cold. Once into the vans, they all agreed it was a cold but wonderful experience.

During the Candlelight Walk in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Dec. 5, (above) some of the Indonesian principals, who have been visiting the Niagara Region and taking courses at Niagara College, Cut Trisnawty, Damarys Hana Luitnan and Nia Sonia sing Christmas carols with other participants. At right, from left, Lutinan, Editha Rumbekwan, James Modouw and Rismapita Saragih are singing.

Photos by Tracy Jay

Blurring her vision with a magical glimpse into Christmas is Melissa DeMastrio, 21, of Mississauga.

Photo by Alex Halmai

Alysha Johnson, 2, of Welland, (at left) is trying to reach the mail box to send her letter to Santa Claus after the postal strike was finished, and (above) she is hanging the stocking for her new baby brother, who is expected to be born around Christmas Day.

Photos by Minako Yamaguchi

It's a true Christmas extravaganza. This home on First Avenue in Welland is decorated in the Christmas spirit. The tree and home are decorated with hundreds of lights, and a manger scene captures the eyes of those travelling by.

Photo by Kerri Wood

Christmas celebrations in Niagara-on-the-Lake will always include playwright George Bernard Shaw.

Photo by Alex Halmai

WINTER WONDERLAND

Warm spirits thwart winter's cold

By CARRIE WHITE
and JENN WALKER
Staff Writers

The weather outside was frightful, but Santa was still delightful.

Families from Welland, St. Catharines and the surrounding area braved the brisk cold temperatures to see Santa and Mrs. Claus glide down East Main Street in their red sleigh in Welland on Dec. 6.

Everyone was glad to be there and some children were bundled up so you could see only their eyes peering out through their hats, scarves and blankets. They gathered along the sides of the road, rosy-cheeked and breathless in anticipation of Santa's arrival.

There were people dressed as clowns, presents and Tweety Bird to amuse the children and their parents.

The Girl Guides of Canada wore Santa hats as they marched, belting out Christmas carols and waving excitedly to the crowd.

Although their fingers and faces were red with the cold, Welland's Centennial High School band was atop a float, playing, dancing and singing holiday tunes with enthusiam.

St. John Ambulance, of the Welland and Port Colborne division, brought the therapy dogs out to the parade to join in the festivities. Some walked and some rode in the comfort of a truck, looking out the windows at the crowd and panting happily at the excited squeals coming from the children.

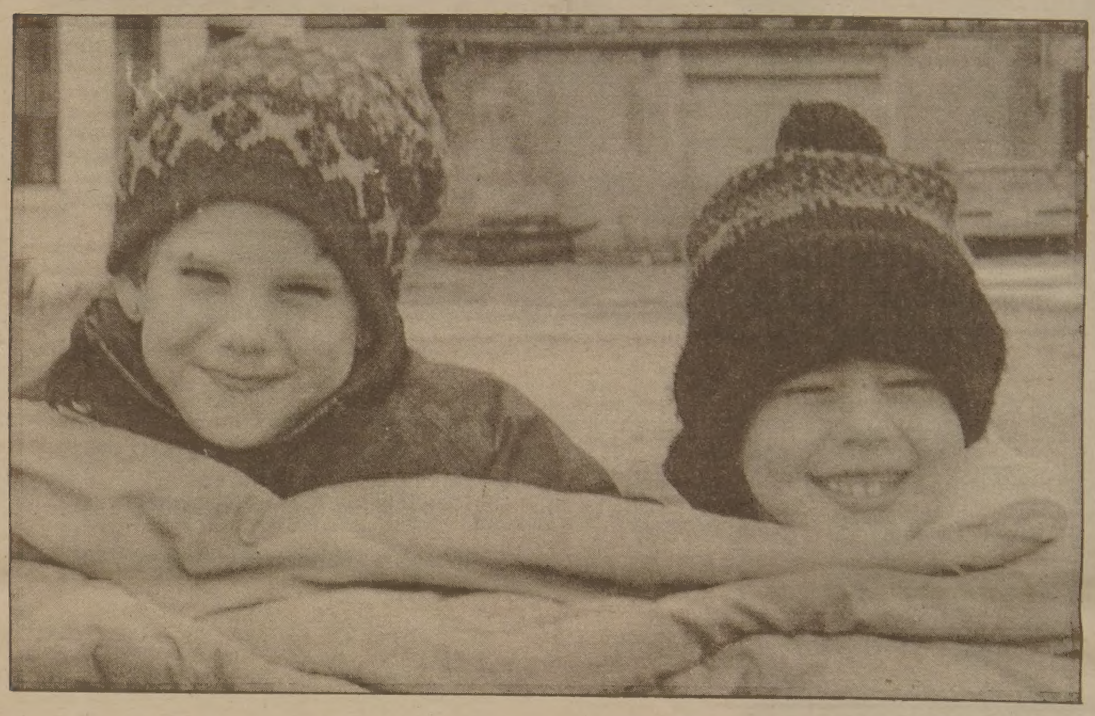
The United Way representatives strolled merrily down the street, totally unaware of the cold biting wind. They sang Christmas carols and waved to the crowd with happy smiles on their faces.

The Welland Snowmobile Club rode down the street, not on their snowmobiles, but comfortably loaded in a trailer as there was no snow.

Niagara Regional Police started and ended the parade, some driving and others handing out candy canes with friendly waves and smiles.

Athough small, the parade still carried with it the huge spirit of Christmas and brought cheer to all who attended.

Afterwards, at around 6 p.m. Santa was spotted on a sidestreet, blocking traffic for at least five minutes, as he unloaded children from his sleigh.



Counterclockwise from left is Kayla Romano, 6, and her brother Devin, 5, of Welland, waiting anxiously for Santa to arrive on Dec. 6. Bottom left is Sparky, the Fire Dog riding in a small car and waving to the crowd during the Christmas parade. Top photo is of a dog wearing a Santa hat while keeping warm in the East Main Street parade.

Photos by Jenn Walker and Carrie White

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BEC NIAGARA

No one will be alone on Christmas Day

By JEFF SCHELHAS
Staff Writer

It's the day before Christmas, and you are alone.

In your life not a creature is stirring, not even a foe. But all of a sudden from out of the blue, a church comes out to help to make your Christmas a little less blue.

During the cold month of December winter drifts in, nights get longer and white flakes fall from the overcast sky.

Unfortunately, hundreds of our neighbors, co-workers and lonely souls from our community will be by themselves on Christmas Day.

However, at the Faith Tabernacle Church in Pelham early Christmas morning, church officials will be making the trimmings, and setting the tables for those who cannot be with family or friends on Christmas Day or who are unable to prepare a Christmas dinner by themselves.

These people are invited to have a Christmas dinner with the food of God, from people who want to make any child of God feel welcome and loved in one of the loneliest times in the lives of many people.

'It's something I always wanted to do'

—Erika Church

Erika Church, a Niagara College English professor, is one of those making the feast happen.

She said she believes it's just Jesus' work. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

The chef and his family will come from Toronto to help the people of faith give a little faith on a day where faith is lost.

There will be turkey and trimming, pie and cake, and a neighbor on the left and the right for you to talk and laugh with on a cold Christmas night.

If interested in a dinner with people of faith call 735-6811 to reserve a place at this Christmas feast. Everyone is welcome, including Niagara College students who will be alone at Christmas. However, you must telephone before Dec. 14.

Old man winter blasts through Niagara Region

Elizabeth Margetan, 40, a third-year Business Administration Operation management proogram student, climbs the stairs as winter blasts Niagara College's Welland campus Wednesday.
Photo by Jeff Schelhas

Christmas food fattening

Don't feast on too many Christmas treats

By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

For some, Christmas is a time of celebration, happiness, spending time with loved ones and EATING.

Many of us pack on a few extra pounds during the holidays, then make a New Year's resolution to diet.

It's time to break the cycle! Instead of feasting on fatty foods, why not eat your favorite dishes in a low-fat style? Here are a few tips to keep the inches off your hips — and everywhere else!

• Eat slowly. It takes 20 minutes for your brain to receive the "I'm full" message from your stomach.

• Eat smaller portions. If you're still hungry after you have already eaten, add small amounts to your plate. That way, you won't load the food on your plate and feel as though you have to eat it all.

• Choose white meat over dark meat. Although you may find white meat dry and less tasty, it has less fat than dark meat.

• Use skim milk and a low-fat butter or margarine for your mashed potatoes.

• Use a powdered gravy instead of the artery-clogging fat from the turkey. Powdered gravy is available in most grocery stores and contains virtually no fat.

• Don't laze on the sofa after dinner. Minimal exercise, such as playing a game of cards, will increase your heart rate and help you burn off the fat.

Instead of regretting your indulgence, enjoy it.

Donate coats for 'Kids'

By KAREN GELLATLY
Staff Writer

It's cold outside.

Port Cares held its ninth annual Koats for Kids, a charity drive which distributes donated winter coats to the needy.

Coats were dropped off at Lightheart Cleaners, 338 King St. in Port Colborne, from Oct. 1 to Nov. 13. The coats were dry cleaned by the firm, which donated the service.

"They've been a great help," said Maryanne Feagan, program coordinator for the community resource centre Port Cares.

The donation of services kept coming as ReMax Realty of Port Colborne offered the space beside its office for the pick-up location. Cleaners dropped off the cleaned garments there for distribution.

Feagan, 33, of Port Colborne, said, "There were no questions asked. The number of coats were counted as they were brought in and as they were taken out."

The coats were available to the public from Oct. 20 to Dec. 5. Also available were sweaters, hats, mittens, boots and infant wear.

"Anything for cold weather," Feagan said.

Money-saving Christmas hints

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

For many people, Christmas time is stressful, especially on the bank account.

No need to worry. Here are some helpful money-saving hints while you successfully finish your Christmas shopping.

• Buy for the important people. If you are used to buying for everyone from your mom to the mailman — stop.

• Make a Christmas list. Highlight the important people. Keep the list to a minimum, including only close family and friends.

• For each gift set a price range you can afford. Twenty dollars is a good limit. You can buy movies, candles, gift baskets, flowers and books for less than $20.

• Buy simple gifts. It doesn't have to be extravagant to be heartfelt. Find out what the person enjoys and go from there.

• Make your gifts. There's nothing more heartfelt than a homemade decal or treat.

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CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Santa Claus tradition has come long way

Ho, Ho, Ho.

Everyone the world over recognizes those words as the jolly laugh of Santa Claus. Who is also known as St. Nick, Father Christmas and Pere Noel.

This eternal Christmas fixture has delighted children of all ages for more than 1500 years.

The merry man in the red suit we now know as Santa Claus began as a bishop from Turkey called Nicholas.

Nicholas was orphaned when his wealthy parents died of the plague. At age 17, he became a priest, giving away his inherited wealth in the forms of gifts to the needy, especially children.

Nicholas became a bishop. He wore a long flowing gown, a red cape and hat, as well as the typically long beard.

Upon his death on Dec. 6, AD 352, Nicholas was elevated to saint-hood. When the Catholic church started celebrating Christmas, St. Nicholas was incorporated into the holidays as the children's generous gift-giver.

It was the Dutch that preserved their gift-giver tradition, Sinter Klaas, and brought it to America when they emigrated at the beginning of the 17th century.

Over several decades, the Sinter Klaas tradition spread to the rest of the country. The name was mispronounced as Santa Claus. It was celebrated as St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6, the anniversary of his death.

Throughout the years, the Americans merged their own Christian traditions of celebrating the birth of Jesus and the New Year with the old Dutch customs. A new custom was developed. It was thought that Santa Claus made the rounds of visiting Christian families during the eve of Jesus' birthday celebration to distribute gifts only to good children.

Decades later, when Canada became a country, it was believed that the Christian Christ Child filled the Christmas stockings of French children on Christmas Eve, while Santa Claus took care of the English-speaking children.

A modern image of Santa Claus can be attributed to Dr. Clement

Clarke Moore, a professor of divinity from New York.

Moore brought all of the world's perceptions of Santa Claus together in his 1823 poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

Moore described St. Nicholas as "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf." His Santa went down chimneys and travelled through the air pulled by eight reindeer.

An artist, Haddon Sundblom, created Santa with his red and white suit for the Coca-Cola company in 1931. The company wanted Sundblom to create an advertisement to boost winter sales of the soft drink. Company executives decided an effective way to do this would be to have Santa as a Coca-Cola drinker.

Sundblom drew Santa as a large, red-cheeked man with a broad belt and black hip boots, red with white-trimmed suit, long white beard, as well as a sack of toys slung onto his back.

From then on, the influence of the media replaced the religious and moral apects of Saint Nicholas with the basically generous character of Santa Claus.

Before the turn of the century, stores across North America had added Santa Clauses, on thrones, to hear children's Christmas wishes.

It was the Dutch that preserved their gift-giver tradition, Sinter Klaas.

Who delivers your presents on Christmas Eve?

Being a culturally diverse and worldly fellow, Santa has many interpretations:

In Canada, the Christ Child gives out presents to French Catholic children, while Santa Claus took care of the Anglophones.

In Brazil, Grandpapa Indian brings gifts.

In the African Republic of Ghana, Father Christmas comes from the jungle.

In Australia, Santa rides water skis and wears bathing trunks.

In China, Christmas Old Man gives gifts to good children.

In Sweden, Jultomten has a sleigh drawn by goats.

In Denmark, Julemanden collects rice pudding left out by children for the elves.

In Poland, gifts are believed to come from the stars.

In Hungary, angels bring gifts.

In Syria, a young camel gives out gifts.

In Spanish-speaking countries, three kings give gifts on Jan. 6, Three Kings' Day.

In Italy, La Befana gives gifts on Three Kings' Day.

In Russia, Baboushka, an ageless wanderer, and Grandfather Frost, who wears blue, give gifts.

In England, Father Christmas distributes presents.

In France, the people believe the trio of Pere Noel, Father Christmas and the Christ Child bring gifts.

In Austria and Switzerland, Christkindl bears gifts.

In Germany, Weihnachtsmann is the gift-bearer.

Saint Nicholas has become the most popular saint in all of Christianity. He is the official guardian saint of many countries, including Russia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway and Greece. He is the patron saint of children, thieves, pirates, young brides, unmarried women, fishermen and murderers, among others.

He has evolved into one of the best-known and best-loved characters in the world. He is the plump, jolly, red-suited Santa Claus, whom children young and old wait for on Christmas Eve, eyes twinkling and hearts merry.

Celebrating Christmas means honoring past

Christmas means many different things to many people.

There are different customs, wishes, families, traditions, religions and celebrations altogether.

Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, and Kismus all essentially mean the same: the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Born nearly 2,000 years ago, Christians believe him to be the Son of God. Whether Jesus was really born on Dec. 25, no one can say for sure.

The first mention of the celebration of Christmas was in AD 336 in an early Roman calendar. The calendar noted Dec. 25 as the day of Christmas observance.

This day was fixed by the Roman Church around AD 320 or AD 353 to coincide with an ancient period of celebration, linked with the beginning of the winter season.

During the third century, it was a common belief Christ was born as an interpretation of some prophetic scriptures and an idea the Annunciation and the Crucifixion occurred on March 25.

The Roman Church adopted this date as that of Mary's visit by the angel Gabriel and added nine months to come up with Dec. 25 as Jesus' birthday.

The word Christmas comes from an early English phrase, "Cristes Maesse," meaning Mass of Christ, first used in the 11th century.

Christmas was first celebrated in the year 354 and many traditions and customs have since developed.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, Christmas began to be the time to give children presents, at least in middleclass families.

Department stores carried a variety of childrens' toys, as well as a wide selection of gifts for adults.

In Canada, the custom of giving Christmas gifts is relatively recent. Originally, gifts were exchanged at New Year's time only. Newspaper advertisements eventually led people to buy presents for both occasions. In the end, the growing popularity of Santa Claus caused gifts to be exchanged only at Christmas.

In North America, the traditional Christmas stocking dates back to the end of the 19th century. Illustrator Thomas Nast drew them hung by the chimney in his pictures of Santa in Harper's Weekly magazine.

In some families, stockings were hung at the end of children's beds instead of by the fire. This custom ended in the 1930s when Christmas trees started to be set up in houses with gifts placed underneath.

Today, we have the traditions of the past, as well as the celebrations of the future to anticipate.

All stories done by Jennifer Cote

'Balancing Act:' A poem

By SANTA CLAUS
As Told to Bill Maynard

Do you remember how it feels
To ride a bike with training wheels?
And when the training wheels are gone
And you are rolling on and on
You think: Is there a chance at all
I'll learn to ride before I fall?
It's like a lot of things you plan
At first you can't, and then you can!

At home the reindeer pull my sled
But here I have to pump instead
Yet if I never rode a bike
How would I know which bike you'd like?

Word on Campus

What are your Christmas traditions?

By CRYSTAL OLDER
Staff Writer

Erica Hartley, 22, of Niagara Falls, a first-year Social Service Worker program student, says, "Christmas Eve my boyfriend, friends and family have a few drinks together. Christmas Day my immediate family comes over to my house. We then go to my boyfriend's family's house. Any time after that we spend time visiting family and friends."

Chanda Dean, 22, of Welland, a first-year Business Sales program student, says, "This year I am spending Christmas Eve and Day with my best friend Tracey and her family. Boxing Day I am going back to Brantford to visit my family and friends."

Alisa Heykoop, 19, of St. Catharines, a first-year Office Administration-Executive program student, says, "We do nothing for Christmas. We don't celebrate it because we don't believe that it was Christ's birthday."

Trisha Laroche, 19, of Welland, a first-year Office Administration-Executive program student, says, "I usually go to my grandmother's for dinner and then to my other grandmother's for lunch. It is a French tradition. On Christmas Eve we have a buffet at midnight."

Tammy Sussman, 24, of Welland, a second-year Dental Hygiene program student, says, "I don't celebrate Christmas because I am Jewish."

Merry Christmas! Mom, Dad & Cody. I love you all.
Thanks for the Support. Love Always
– Your Pooh.

Merry Christmas
to the second-year
Journalism students.
Thanks for the great party!
Best of luck in April
– First-year Journalism students

Greetings

Merry Christmas Reg!
– Love Kerri

Merry Christmas Newlyweds
Kathleen and Edwin Lowe
I hope this is the 1st of many happy holidays.
– Love, Carly

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year. Good luck to everyone in the Journalism program!
From the Riehl Deal & 'Double "D".
Kissing B... since 1996

Merry Christmas, Kat.
I hope Santa brings you everything you want (not that he can afford it).
Lotsa Love, Dave.

& Happy Holidays Christine Twoo are better than one!
- Love Dan

Merry Christmas, Day-day.
Thanks for being there.
– Love you always, Jen

Dear Mother
Have a Merry Christmas
– Love Gary

Salutations

Joyeux Noel
Maman et Papa
Je t'aime
– Mélanie

Merry Christmas!
Randy, Mom, Dad and to everyone in 2nd-year Journalism-Print
- Mark Riehl

Merry Christmas!
Mom, Dad,
Karen, Marc,
Dave, Kathryn,
Kris, Rob,
John, Jennifer,
Samantha
& Shelby
Love Kerri

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-S1-

Knights crush D'Youville

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights beat Buffalo's D'Youville College Spartans in a wild exhibition basketball game on Dec. 7.

Niagara started the game strong scoring 21 points to the Spartans' two, in the first five minutes.

Mike George led the first half for Niagara with 15 points while Steve Dever and Mike Harris each had 11. Robert Brodie led D'Youville with 12 points in the half.

At the end of the half, the Knights led the game by a 49-26 margin.

Six minutes into the second half, a foul was called on the Spartans' Jeff Agan. Head coach Troy Tucker ran onto the court challenging the referee. Among other things, Tucker told the referee to "shut up," at which time he was ejected from the game.

The game was nearly forfeited when he wouldn't leave the court. Finally, after giving instructions to his assistant coach Randy L'ehman and the team, he left.

"It's not Niagara," said Tucker. "They're a great team and they have a great coach. It's the officiating up here in Canada. It was ridiculous and we won't come back."

Niagara went on to win the game 85-48, led by George who netted 26 points. Harris chipped in for 20 and Dever finished with 13. Leading the Spartans with 21 points was Captain Andrew McCullough.

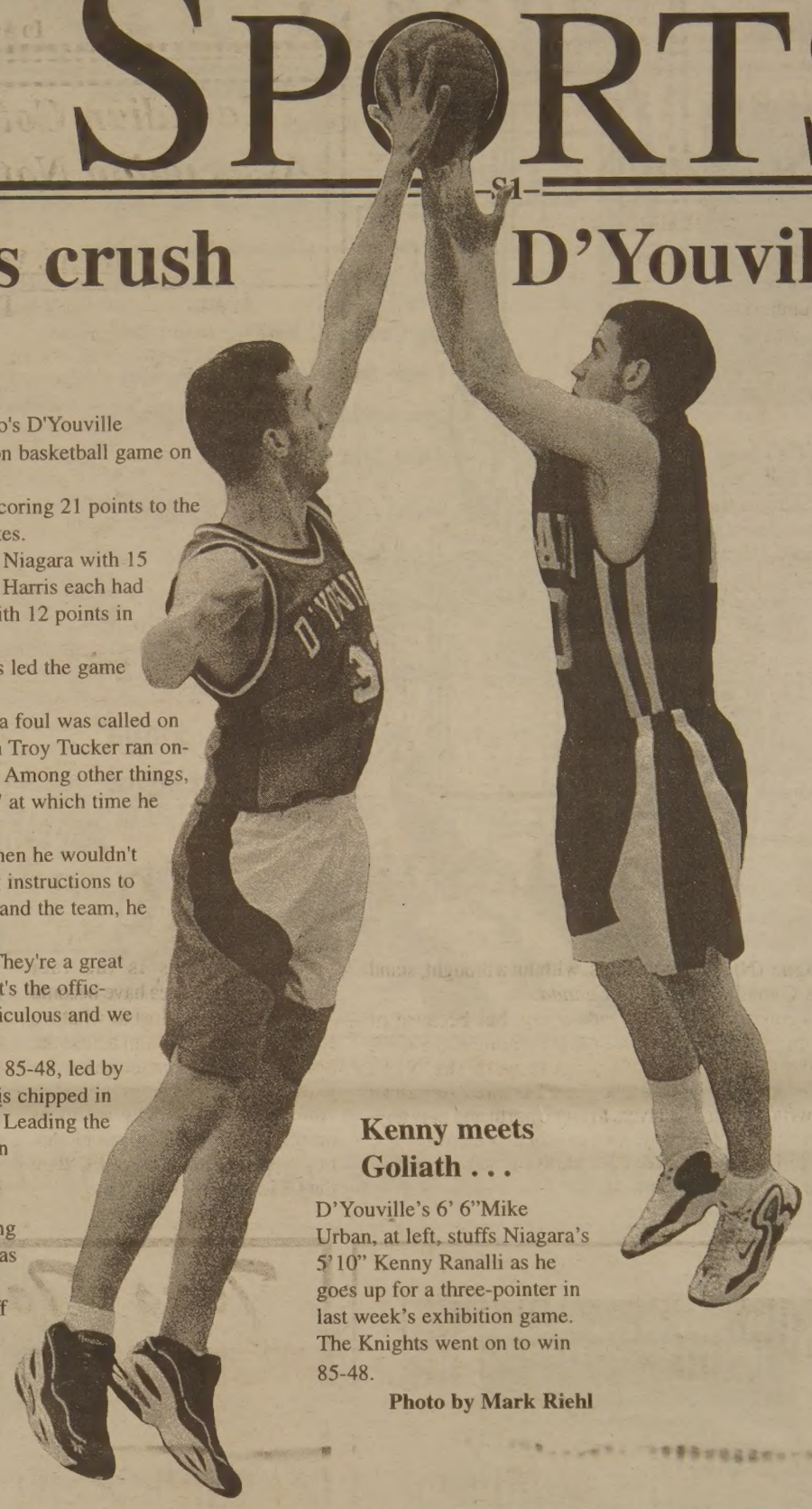
Niagara's Jason Smith didn't play after he quit last week. He was doing double-duty playing centre as well as being the team manager.

Smith said he and head coach Jeff MacDonald decided it would be best for him to quit playing and stick to his managing job.

"I was dressing him and he's a manager," said MacDonald.

Niagara was ranked No. 12 in Canada on last week's Canadian College Athletic Association top 15 list. It's the first time in the men's basketball team's history they've made the list.

"It's good for the college because it brings us some national recogition," said Ray Sarkis, assistant athletic director.



Kenny meets Goliath . . .

D'Youville's 6' 6"Mike Urban, at left, stuffs Niagara's 5'10" Kenny Ranalli as he goes up for a three-pointer in last week's exhibition game. The Knights went on to win 85-48.

Photo by Mark Riehl

Tonight, the Knights tip off at home against the Humber College Hawks at 8 p.m in an exhibition match up. The Hawks,ranked third in the Central Region, will be Niagara's final opponent until the new year.

Niagara loses to Spartans

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

The benchless Knights dropped another one.

The Niagara College women's basketball team lost at home against the D'Youville College Lady Spartans of Buffalo, N.Y., 57-46 on Dec. 5 in exhibition action.

The game started out as a back-and-forth affair with each team matching each other point-for-point. Niagara made a run near the end of the half scoring six straight points to take a 21-18 lead but that wouldn't last as the Spartans went on their own six-point run ending the half with a 24-21 lead.

Niagara came out slowly in the second half with one player on the bench in their third straight game.

With 5:56 left in the second half, Kristin Flindall fouled out of the game, leaving five players to finish.

"She is a key player on our team and she needs to control her anger," said team captain Andrea Flindall.

Kristin Davies tried to keep the Knights in this one by adding two three-pointers in the first half and dropping another two in the second half.

D'Youville put the game away in the second half when they went on a 13-2 run, giving them the game 57-46.

"I thought my girls played a great game with having six players and we used plays that we learned in practice," said head coach Tara Patrachenko.

Leading scorers for Niagara were Davies with 20 points, Flindall with 11 points and Caryn Thompson with eight points. Trinity Smith managed seven points in the losing cause.

Niagara's next game will be at home against the Humber Hawks in an exhibition game tonight at 6.

McKeown leads Knights to sixth straight victory

Niagara faces two important tourneys over Christmas holidays to climb higher ranks

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

Despite a win, Niagara maintains its No. 12 ranking in the country.

The Niagara College men's volleyball team easily handled the Cambrian College Golden Shield team on Dec. 6 winning 3-0 (15-9, 15-11 and 15-11) in Sudbury, Ont.

Cory McKeown led the Knights with 12 kills and six blocks. Paul Clark had four kills and seven blocks while Kirby Bentley had seven kills and four blocks.

"We were a little sluggish coming out of the blocks and we had trouble passing because it is a hard gym to play in," said Niagara player Stacey Kay. "They are a real scrappy team and we only played well enough to win."

"We played very poorly for the level we should be playing at and we made a point of getting out of there in three games," said head coach Blaire Cudmore.

COREY MCKEOWN

With the win the team has a four-point lead in the West Region.

"We need to start beating teams out of our league in order to move up any higher in the CCAA (Canadian College Athletic Association) standings," said Blair.

For Niagara's team to achieve a higher national ranking it must defeat teams out of its region and those that are ranked higher than the Knights.

"We have two very important tournaments during the holidays that will be a very big deal because we will be playing the top three teams in the country," said Blair.

The Knights will battle Belleville's Loyalist College, Montreal's Limoilou and Mount Royal Colleges once during the two tournaments for a higher ranking.

"We are now preparing for teams outside of our division and we are working towards post-season play," said team captain Bentley.

"If we beat one of these teams then I will be very happy," said Blair. "Our chances are pretty good if we play together as a team but if we play like we did against Cambrian we will get killed."

Niagara has three players in the West Region top 10 individual standings at the season's midpoint. Bentley is seventh in scoring while Paul Clark is ninth and McKeown is tenth in the league.

Niagara will begin the new year by playing a tournament on Jan. 2 at Limoilou College.

SPORTS

Ontario College Athletics Association West Region Standings

Men's Basketball

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
Niagara	3	3	0	6
Sault	7	3	4	6
Mohawk	2	2	0	4
St. Clair	2	2	0	4
Fanshawe	5	2	3	4
Redeemer	3	1	2	2
Lambton	4	0	4	0

Women's Basketball

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
Seneca	5	5	0	10
Humber	4	4	0	8
Fanshawe	6	4	2	8
Mohawk	5	3	2	6
Durham	6	2	4	4
George Brown	3	1	2	2
Niagara	3	0	3	0
Georgian	6	0	6	0

Men's Volleyball

Team	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Niagara	7	6	1	20	7	12
Humber	5	4	1	13	6	8
Seneca	5	4	1	13	9	8
Mohawk	4	2	2	9	6	4
Cambrian	5	2	3	8	9	4
Georgian	6	1	5	4	16	2
Redeemer	6	0	6	4	18	0

Graphic by Dan Dakin

Women's Volleyball

Team	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Sheridan	7	6	1	20	5	12
Redeemer	6	5	1	16	9	10
St. Clair	4	3	1	10	6	6
Niagara	4	2	2	8	6	4
Lambton	7	2	5	8	17	4
Sault	6	1	5	6	16	2
Mohawk	4	0	4	3	12	0

Canadian College Athletics Association National Rankings

Men's Volleyball

Team	PROV	Last Wk
1. Mount Royal Cougars	Alta.	4
2. Limoilou Titans	Que.	5
3. Loyalist Lancers	Ont.	3
4. Red Deer Kings	Alta.	1
5. Montmorency Nomades	Que.	2
6. Cariboo Sun Demons	B.C.	6
7. Jonqueire Gaillards	Que.	7
8. Grant MacEwan Griffins	Alta.	8
9. Douglas Royals	B.C.	14
10. Algonquin Thunder	Ont.	10
11. NAIT Ooks	Alta.	11
12. Niagara Knights	Ont.	12
13. Trinity Western Spartans	B.C.	9
14. NSAC Rams	A.C.	13
15. Seneca	Ont.	NR

A.C.-Atlantic Canada, NR-Not Rated

Graphic by Dan Dakin

CFL's Grey Cup game should have been covered

By DAVE CONROY and DAN DAKIN
Staff Writers

This is in response to a letter to the editor on page 8 of this Niagara News edition. We agree with the writer in that we, as Canadians, often focus on American subjects.

The fact that we chose to run a National Football League (NFL) column rather than a Canadian Football League (CFL) column in the Nov. 21 edition of the Niagara News doesn't mean that we are unpatriotic. We love Canada.

We are glad that the writer of the letter agrees with the Nov. 21 column on Canadian patriotism. We stand behind what we write and both of us, without a thought, stand for *Oh Canada*.

It's sad to say, but because of population and money, the CFL can't compete with the NFL. Because the CFL hires American players to come north and play anyway, we don't think preferring NFL over CFL shows a lack of patriotism.

What it shows is the fact Canadians in this area have become "Americanized." Most of what we see on television is from across the border. Generally the news we watch, read and hear about is American. That is why we focus on the NFL. We know people are more interested in the NFL than the CFL.

However, it's not to say we were right in failing to cover the Grey Cup game. It is one of Canada's biggest days in sports and should have had a story written on it.

As for our NFL picks, we feel people can relate to them and compare how they're doing versus how we are doing when it comes to picking winners.

Niagara handed another loss

Niagara gaurd Kristin Davies was lending D'Youville a hand in their 57-46 victory last week.
Photo by Mark Riehl

Toys • Toys • Toys

Santa has been busy making toys for big girls & boys
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Holiday movies great for winter nights

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

A roaring fire, a big bowl of buttery popcorn and a warm blanket set the scene for a quiet evening at home. With Christmas just around the corner, spark up that evening with a few holiday perennials on home video.

• *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946). "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." This classic is a story of depression and self-destruction. James Stewart, as George Bailey, risks his life and his family's security and trust as he aims to rise above his corrupt business associates. A doomed man learns the true meaning of Christmas in his darkest moments.

• *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947).. An old man claims to be the real Santa Claus after he substitutes for a department-store Santa during the Christmas season. For anyone who still believes in Santa, this tale, starring Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood, and Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle, brings joy to their dampened holiday spirits. Re-made in 1994, starring Sir Richard Attenborough as the jolly old elf.

• *A Christmas Carol* (1951). Charles Dickens' tale of Ebenezer Scrooge comes to life in the chilling black-and-white screen version starring Alistair Sim. The ghosts of Christmas past, present and future haunt the old miser as he blasts anyone who wishes him a Merry Christmas. The colorized version, *Scrooge,* is less effective so don't bother. Bah, humbug!

• *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966). Boris Karloff narrates Dr. Seuss' children's favorite which airs on television every year. For people who have not seen it at Christmas, rent it for the children. They'll get a kick out of the green creature with a heart "three sizes too small" complaining about the Whos' Christmas traditions in Who-ville.

• *A Christmas Story* (1983). A nine-year-old boy wants a Red Ryder BB air rifle for Christmas despite his mother's disapproval of guns. ("You'll shoot your eye out," she says.) This hilarious adventure, set in the 1940s, stars Peter Billingsley as Ralph Parker, the boy who struggles through school, bullies' threats and a wacky family life to fulfill his Christmas wish. Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon star as Billingsley's dysfunctional parents.

• *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989). The Griswold family is at it again with their unusual "good old-fashioned family Christmas" celebration. Enjoy Chevy Chase's comic antics as he decorates his house in 25,000 minilights, loses his Christmas bonus from work, and suffers from the headaches of having his insane relatives spend the holidays at his home. Randy Quaid is especially memorable as Chase's annoying slob cousin.

• *The Santa Clause* (1994). Tim Allen becomes jolly St. Nicholas when the first Santa falls off his roof and leaves his suit behind. His son convinces him that this job will be more endearing than his ruthless toy business. Laugh along as Allen's waistband expands as he goes through a funny transformation into "the Claus" in this hit from the folks at Disney.

• *The Preacher's Wife* (1996). A surprisingly good remake of the 1947 film *The Bishop's Wife*, starring Denzel Washington and singer Whitney Houston. Washington is every woman's dream as Dudley, an angel sent to help a preacher (played by Courtney B. Vance) repair his marriage for the sake of his young son. Houston is at her best as the choir leader of her son's Christmas pageant. The film is directed by Penny Marshall.

Pour yourself a tall glass of egg nog, or a diet pop if you prefer, and watch a video with a loved one. Or if you're the type who has nothing to do on a Friday night, rent a really funny Christmas flick because no one will be there to hear you snort as you laugh.

Dion sings about love

Dion's new album hits No. 1 spot

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

Celine Dion is not only falling into you but now she wants to talk about love.

On Nov. 18, Dion, Canada's French-singer superstar, released her latest CD, **Let's Talk About Love**.

The CD, which consists of 15 songs ranging from rap to dance and from love to opera, has already climbed to No. 1 on the music charts across Canada.

Overall, this CD is one of Dion's best

Dion was given the privilege of singing the love theme song, *My Heart Will Go On*, which is from the most anticipated movie of the Christmas season, *Titanic*. The song paints a picture of feared love and, in the end, the love is no longer feared and love goes on. This song is moving in every way as Dion uses all her vocal capabilities.

On the CD, Dion shares her music talent in a duet with music sensation, Barbra Streisand, with the song *Tell Him* and in a duet with opera singer, Luciano Pavarotti, with the song *I Hate You Then I Love You*.

Streisand and Dion's voices complement one another enabling them to produce a song full of emotion. However, the duet with Pavarotti didn't amaze me. If the song had been perfomed by Dion alone then I would have said the song was great.

Fans can expect more of the same love ballads on this CD as well as her latest attempts to sing rap and dance ballads.

Overall, this CD is one of Dion's best.

A moment in history

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

• On this day in 1901, Italian physicist Guglielmo Marconi sent the first wireless telegraphic signal across the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of almost 3,600 kilometres. He erected a 50-metre antenna in Cornwall, England, and a receiver in St. John's, Nfld.

• On this day in 1915, German aircraft designer Hugo Junkers completed work on the J-1 Blechesel, the world's first all-metal airplane. Junkers' methods were so advanced the Ford Motor Co. used his designs for constructing automobiles.

• On this day in 1917, U.S. singer and actor Frank Sinatra was born in Hoboken, N.J. Sinatra's hit singles include *My Way* and *Strangers in the Night*. He also starred in dozens of films, including *From Here To Eternity,* for which he won an Academy Award for best supporting actor.

• On this day in 1931, Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi was refused an audience with the Pope because he would not wear western-style clothing in place of his traditional Indian garments.

• On this day in 1945, former U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the creation of the United Nations.

• On this day in 1967, the U.S. military ended the largest airlift in American history, landing 6,500 troops in Vietnam in one operation.

• On this day in 1968, U.S. actress Tallulah Bankhead died. Bankhead was a star of stage and screen, with her greatest successes coming as the star of Lillian Hellman's play *The Little Foxes* and Alfred Hitchcock's film *Lifeboat*.

Cars fans will like Troublizing

Alternative album has a alternative sound

By KAREN GELLATLY
Staff Writer

Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.

Ric Ocasek, of Cars, has released a solo album. **Troublizing** contains songs that sound like Green Day, The Ramones and Pink Floyd, all with a distinct Cars flavor.

The only original-sounding song on the CD is *Hang on Tight,* a very upbeat tune compared to the rest of the album.

Billy Corgan, of Smashing Pumpkins, co-produced the album with Ocasek.

The songs on **Troublizing** all reflect a paranoid attitude on the part of Ocasek. The world is out to get him and he's fed up with it all.

Ocasek combines alternative, rock and pop music with eerie lyrics that seem to mesh with other band's musical influences.

Aside from observing at the opening of track 6 that this sounds like Green Day's *When I Come Around,* you may enjoy this album.

You may also enjoy the picture of Ocasek giving the finger on the inside cover.

Troublizing is for anyone who likes The Cars, or even remembers them.

May the priceless joys of the season
that money can't buy
fill your holidays with laughter
and memories of good friends
family and neighbors.
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T'was the night before layout

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

T'was two weeks before Christmas and through the newsroom,
Not a student was relaxed, the layout crew was in gloom.

The copy was not edited, the photos were not scanned,
Layout was not going as smoothly as planned.

Phyllis hid in her office sipping jolts of caffeine,
Gary went blind staring at the Macintosh screen.

Printers were buzzing, the wax machine broke,
To get away from the madness, students left for a smoke.

When out in the donut there arose such a clatter,
Students sprang from their desks to see what was the matter.

Away from the newsroom they flew like a flash
To investigate the thud, the bang, and the crash.

When what to their wondering eyes should appear,
But Santa, his sleigh with reindeer, and a huge keg of beer.

With a few heavy breaths and a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho!",
Santa pulled tightly on his reins like a pro.

The students couldn't believe what they saw in Santa's sleigh,
But they shrugged their shoulders 'cause it was that kind of day.

More rapid than eagles, Phyllis and Gary appeared,
Gary whistled and shouted "Who here asked for the beer?"

Not Jeff, not Crystal, not Sharon nor Dan
Knew that this liquor was somebody's plan.

Gary started yelling, "We have too much to do!"
Phyllis cried, "The wax is gone. We have to use glue!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
Other students rushed in the hall to see why she cried.

So back to the newsroom Gary and Phyllis flew,
But the students refused to go back in there too.

The reindeer soon realized they were not on the roof,
As Kevin pet Rudolph, he was kicked by his hoof.

As Santa dismounted his sleigh, he inquired,
"Why are your teachers' nerves under fire?"

"I brought you this Labatt Blue on special request.
Bringing presents is what I do. Am I a pest?"

"No, Santa. We're sorry you're under attack,"
Said Dan as Santa flung the keg onto his back.

The beer—how it twinkled in the eyes of the scribes,
For they forsake their lunches in favor of Gary's bribes.

The premise of drunkenness seemed to students so merry,
"Who's the savior who ordered this great gift," asked Kerri.

"Carole Timm," Santa declared as he ground his white teeth,
"She thought you'd be in desperate need of relief."

Jeff fell down on the floor and kissed the feet of the elf,
And Santa had to laugh in spite of himself.

Where was Carole during this elaborate show?
She was hiding 'cause she didn't want Gary to know.

Soon she appeared to announce her surprise,
But what Carole didn't see was Gary's temperature rise.

Phyllis yelled out the door "Come on, get back to work!
I need a drink too. Don't make me look like a jerk!"

Santa left his Christmas gift and got back in his sleigh,
The reindeer woke up and they were soon on their way.

Carole smiled and said it was all she could do,
To help them work better and improve their sanity too.

"The paper will be done. The beer will give us insight.
Now, back in the newsroom so we're not here 'til night."

Merry Christmas!

Magical kisses

By KATHLEEN McARTHUR
Staff Writer

It's a plant that grows in the highest branches and yet never touches the ground. It has power and magic.

Celtic language translates mistletoe as meaning "all-heal." The Celts believed the plant to be the antidote to all poisons.

Druid priests used the plant in sacred rituals; in northern Japan, the people believed it to be magical.

Although these two countries were thousands of miles apart, their people had the common belief that if a plant could grow without having roots in the ground, the plant had to possess a magical force. Having the magical plant over the holidays was a sign of hope, peace and good fortune.

In the Middle Ages enemies met under a sprig of mistletoe. They would drop their weapons and embrace in forgiveness. The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe comes from this embracing.

The ritual of kissing in some countries has changed. When a couple kissed under the mistletoe, a berry was taken from the bunch.

Mistletoe was given the care we now give to our Christmas trees. "Kissing bunches" or "kissing balls" were constructed from two hoops crossed and tied together.

They were decorated with ribbon, paper roses, apples and then later oranges. Three figures were carefully placed inside the hoops to represent the nativity scene. Then the mistletoe was carefully tied to the bottom of the ball and hung from a prominent place in the home.

Giving outlasts receiving

By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

Christmas morning then:

You awoke before the sun rose and, bursting with excitement, ran to wake your peacefully sleeping parents.

Barely able to contain your growing enthusiasm, you raced towards the unopened gifts.

What seemed to you like a million presents were stuffed under the Christmas tree. As you shredded the wrapping paper from your treasures, a mountain of paper enveloped you.

Christmas morning now:

It's 9 a.m. Your mother or father have come into your room to awaken you — for the fifth time — within the last hour.

You stumble groggily downstairs, grab a jug of coffee and throw yourself on the couch. What used to seem like a million gifts has turned into exactly — six.

All you can think about is the financial damage to your bank account, inflicted by the Christmas shopping you did.

Falling deeper into depression, you wonder how your family can be so happy before noon.

Whatever happened to the thrill of Christmas morning?

For one thing, you have possibly learned there was no such thing as a Santa Claus. Two, you began to understand the real meaning of Christmas. Three, you also learned the joy of giving and focused less on getting gifts.

Although Christmas morning may not feel the same as it did when you were a child breathless with anticipation, you should remember Christmas is a time for family togetherness and celebration.

Eventually, the joy of Christmas will return as you watch your own children experiencing the excitement you once did.

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Holiday hazards can harm our pets

Candles, tinsel pose threats for nosey pets

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Our furry friends need our help during the holiday season.

While we're enjoying our holiday, our pets discover new dangers.

These hazards are especially abundant around our home during the winter season.

Holiday decorations can be especially harmful to a curious animal.

Candles can be dangerous unless well protected. It is unwise to leave them lit in the open.

Open fires are a hazard as well. Make sure they are covered.

The same applies to breakable ornaments. Cats, especially, are enticed by anything that glitters or shines. Once the animal has an ornament down, it may try to bite into it. The consequences are obvious.

Tinsel is also something many animals like to chew. Once swallowed, it can shred a pet's intestines.

Animals are fascinated by Christmas trees and their lights. It may be a good idea to anchor the tree to a wall, as well as secure the lights on the tree with twist ties.

Festive plants such as poinsettias, holly and mistletoe are poisonous to most animals. Unfortunately, these plants are also sweet-smelling, a scent enticing to animals. An alternative is to buy artificial plants or secure real plants in a covered casing.

The holiday party scene should be avoided by Fido and Fluffy. Animals don't appreciate loud noises, blaring music and clinking glasses.

While your pet should be isolated from this chaos, be sure to check in on him to give doses of affection.

The largest part of the holiday season, the huge dinner, is a hazard to a pet. Giving scraps of leftover meat, such as holiday turkey, can cause bouts of diarrhea in your pet.

Animals should also not have any sweets or dairy products. These can cause an upset stomach and constipation.

Chocolate is a lethal treat. If your pet ingests any of these forbidden treats, be sure to seek a veterinarian's assistance.

So, does this mean our special friend can't participate in the holiday festivities? No, of course, we wouldn't want that.

During the holidays, give pets extra attention. And, maybe, just an extra helping of their own special food, turkey-flavored, perhaps.

Alternatives to pet giving

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

The soft fuzziness of a puppy or kitten is hard to resist. Even harder to resist is a young child's plea for a pet. A tempting time to give into this plea for a cuddly new pet is the holiday season.

With the twinkling of the Christmas tree and the light of excitement in a child's eyes, a fluffy puppy, in a festive holiday bow, creates a perfect moment.

Then that picture-perfect gift grows up into a large adult animal the child may no longer have an inclination to look after.

Once the Christmas glow dulls, the work involved in caring for a pet becomes apparent, as does the fact the child's pre-Christmas promise of caring for a pet — all by themselves — has vanished.

A pet's bad habits eventually emerge. A fluffy kitten sheds, small puppies grow, personalities develop and veterinary bills sky-rocket.

The unfortunate result, most often, is a neglected animal. That source of holiday joy ends up back at the breeder's, sent to a shelter, given away, euthanized, or set free to live a painfully short life before dying inhumanely.

Try sponsoring needy pets at local shelters

However, there is a way to prevent this type of tragedy while still bringing a pet into the family as a holiday gift.

These days many humane societies and shelters make it impossible for this tragedy to occur. The Welland and District Humane Society established a policy many years ago that forbids any adoptions from Dec. 17 until the end of December. This ensures no post-holiday returns.

Alternatives to giving an actual pet for Christmas are many. They include giving a gift certificate for the adoption fees at a local shelter; presenting the recipient with a plush toy of the intended pet and including a card explaining that after the holidays, the pet will be selected and the giver will pay adoption fees; giving the recipient books on what to expect and animal care supplies they may need.

For someone not ready for a pet, options include making a donation in his or her name to a charitable organization that helps animals, or signing the person as a sponsor of a needy animal at a local shelter. This way the person can visit the animal.

These options can ensure a happy beginning, and ending, for an animal's future.

Christmas party for pets

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

This year, why not treat yourself to a present by adopting a cuddly companion for those cold winter nights and the years to come?

Once again it's time for the Lincoln County Humane Society's (LCHS) annual open house and Christmas party for the pets.

It is being held at the shelter, at 160 Fourth Ave. in St. Catharines, on Dec. 20, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Earl Longhurst, an agent for the LCHS, says in the past 12 years he's been working there "they've always had a Christmas party."

Donation of food, pet toys welcome

Actually, this is the shelter's 20th year holding the party.

It gives people an opportunity to visit the facility and find out about services at the LCHS.

"Mostly it's people who have adopted from us or who support us," says Longhurst.

However, anyone who is interested in the shelter or adopting one of the animals is welcome.

There is no cost to attend. People are asked to bring a donation of canned or packaged food for the animals at the shelter.

"People usually bring in gifts for the animals, like collars, leashes, toys and food," says Longhurst. "(They) get tours of the facility and see all the animals."

There will also be refreshments such as "baked goods, coffee and tea."

It really is for anyone who loves animals and "it's usually a good turnout," says Longhurst.

And yes, pets can tag along.

For more information call 905-682-0767.

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Capricorn, bah humbug not the attitude to have

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

Aries (March 22 to April 19) — Ho, Ho, Ho, let the fun begin. It's time to get out the cash and do some serious spending. Christmas isn't far away, and if you don't hurry you may not be able to keep up with the hustle and bustle of the season. Put on a happy face and try to remain calm.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) — Smell the aroma of roasting turkey. It's just around the bend. Keep your need-to-feed under control. That after-dinner ache may be a little more painful if you don't stop before dessert.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) — You may think you're rolling in the cash, but at the rate you're going, it won't last long. It's good to give, but save a little living money for yourself. You can't make it on love. As for love, it is the season to be married. Be expecting that Mr. or Ms. perfect to walk into your life real soon.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) — Your Chistmas shopping should be coming to an end. A feeling of relief will come over you and it is much deserved. You beat the rush or so you thought. Go over your shopping list again. You may have missed a very important person.

Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22) — The snow is falling and friends are calling. Take the phone off the hook. You need some quiet time before the season really kicks into gear. Disappear for a while. You should be thankful for the rest when the visiting begins.

Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — Don't be shy. Ask for what you really want. Christmas is about giving and you have done enough of it. Put in a good word for yourself. Someone will surely get it for you.

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — You are wearing yourself out, stop and take a breather. You've been working so hard at speading your Christmas cheer that you're beginning to wear yourself out. Stop and recuperate.

Scorpio (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — The grass may still be green, but the snow is on its way. Make a snowman the first chance you get. Use your hands and make some of your Christmas gifts. You'll save yourself some money.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — Start spreading the news — you're on your way. Going back to the old homestead isn't all that bad. Spend some time with your family and get in touch with your long-lost friends. It's good to touch base every once in awhile.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — Bah humbug is not the attitude to have. Grin and bear it. Christmas isn't all that bad. Once the festivities get rolling, you'll feel more apart of things. Drink some eggnog. If it is spiked, all the better.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — Laugh it up. Someone close to you may be throwing some brutally insulting comments your way. Just remeber friends can be your greatest enemies. Ignore the Christmas Grinch you have nothing to worry about. You are truly a Christmas spirit.

Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20) — Kick up your heels and head for the hills. It time to have some fun. Try not to tie yourself down to your work over the holidays. You need to play in the snow and relax by a roasting fire.

For entertainment purposes only.

Merry Christmas

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